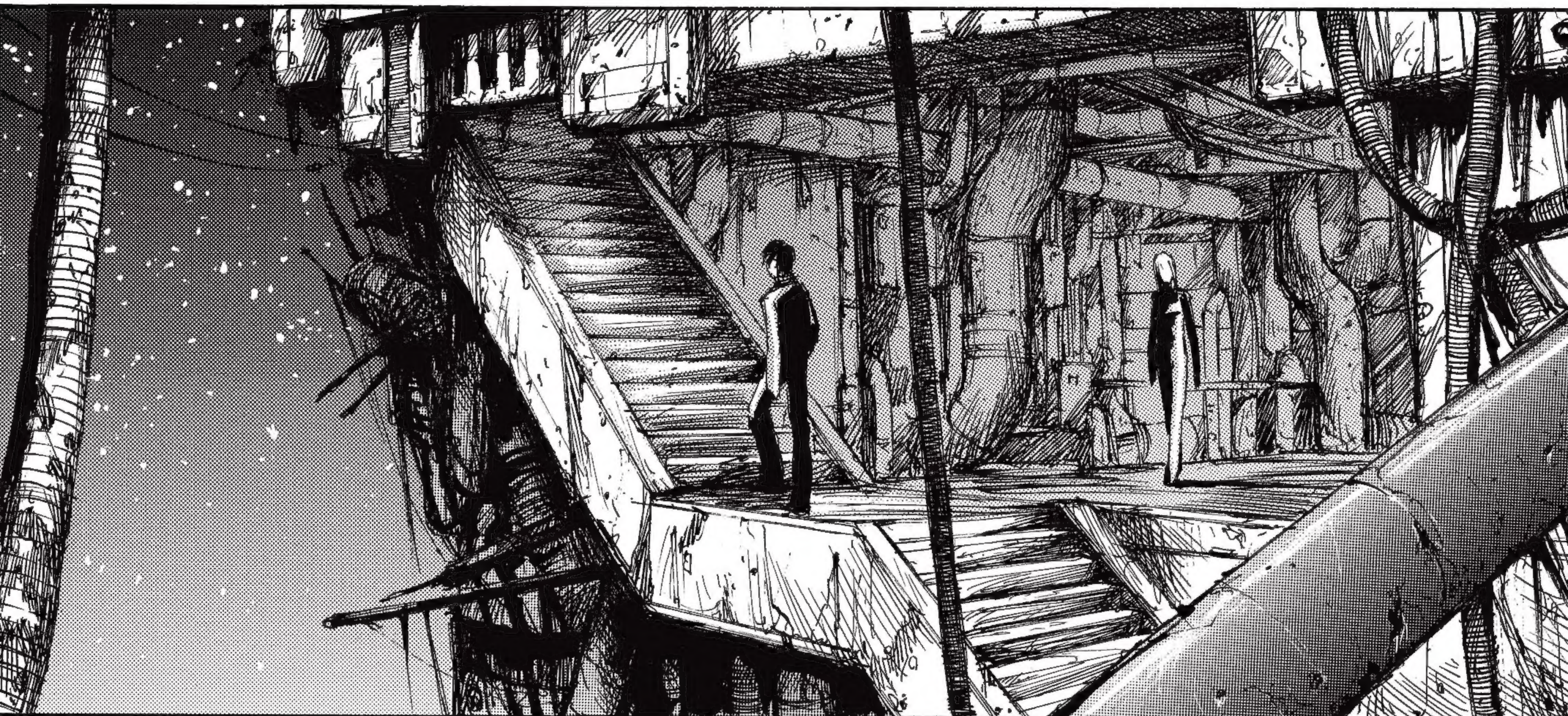
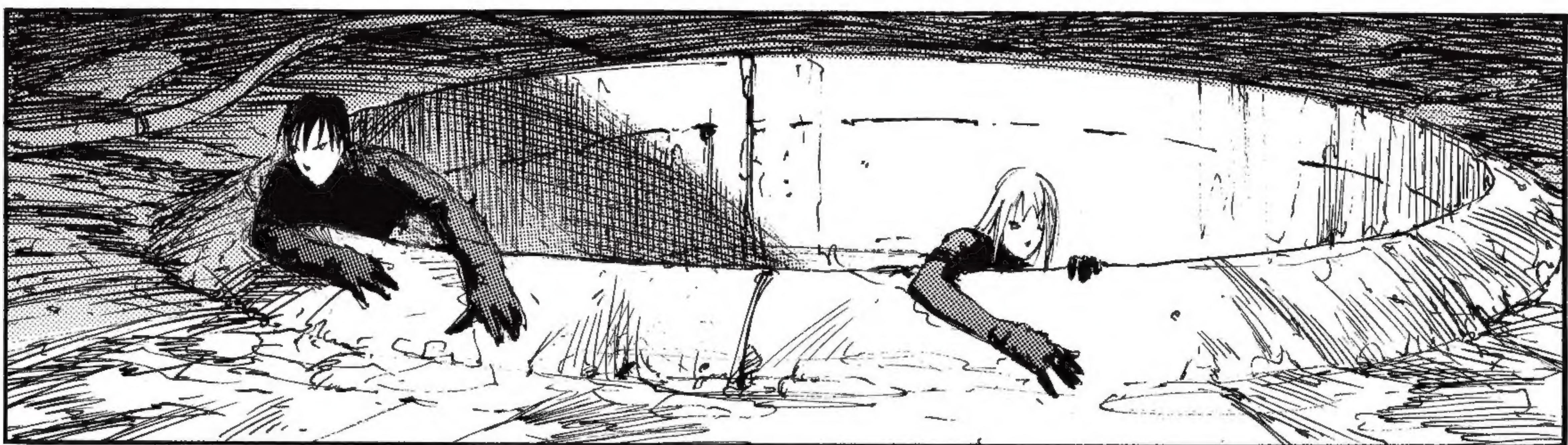
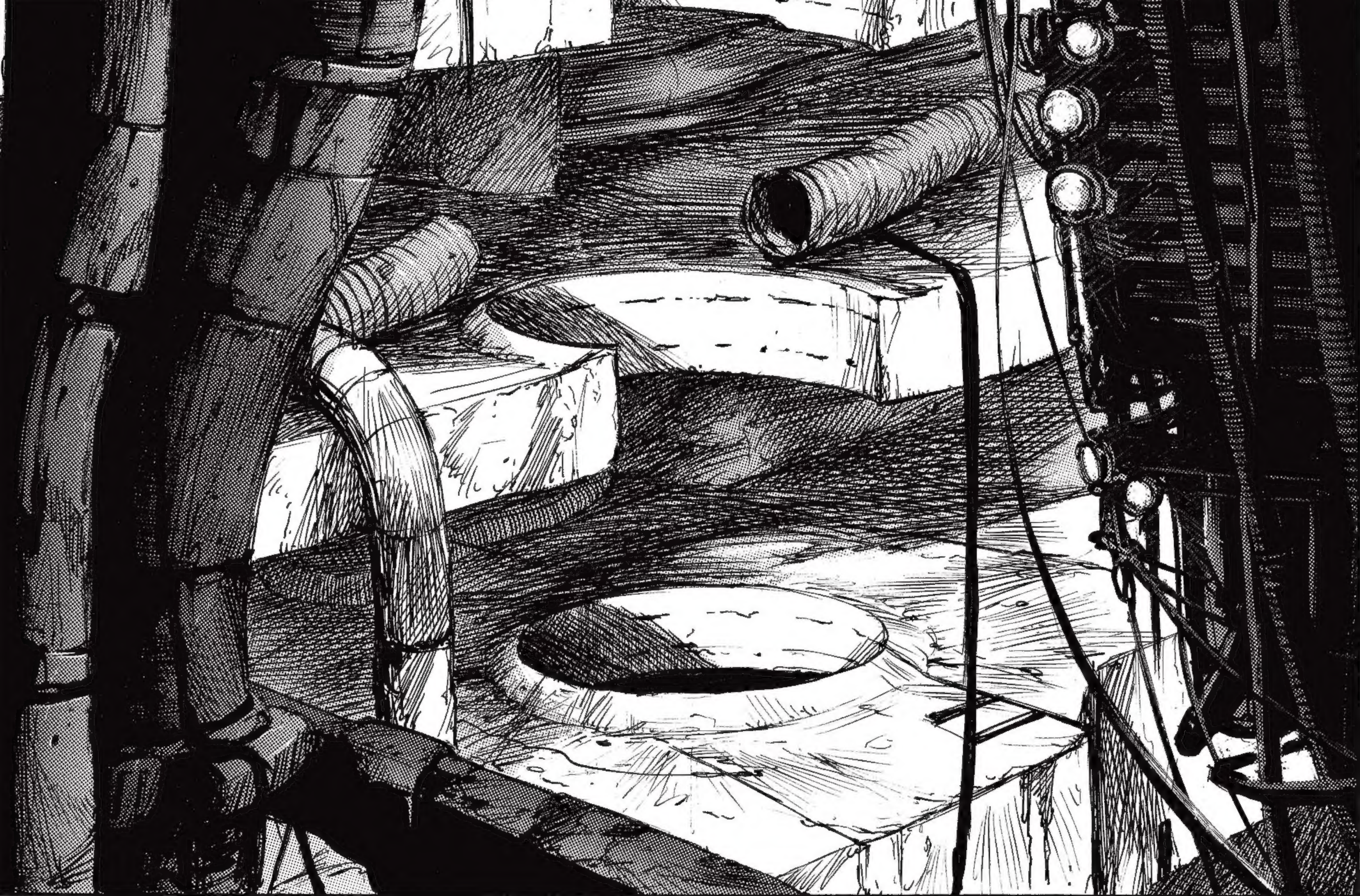
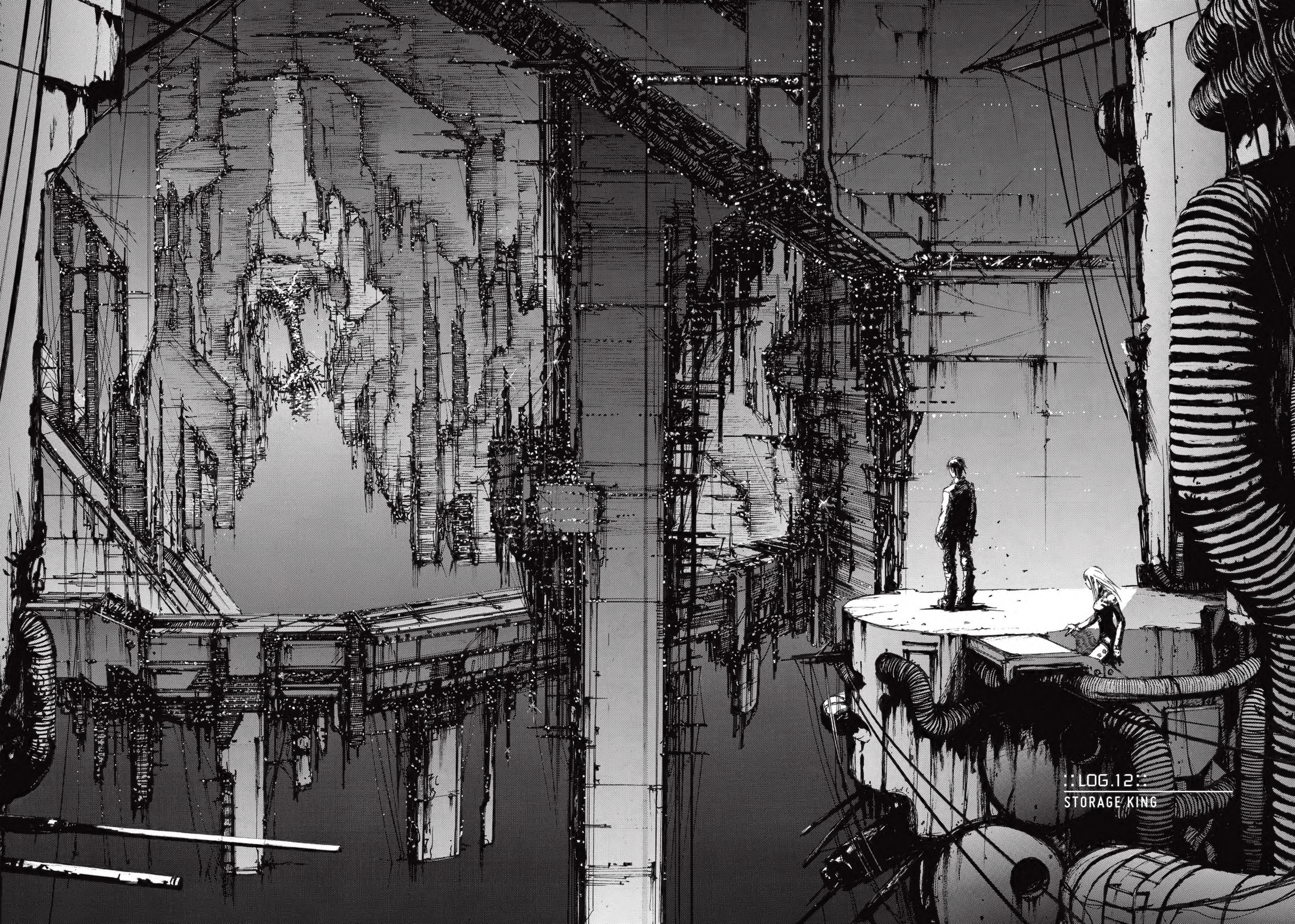
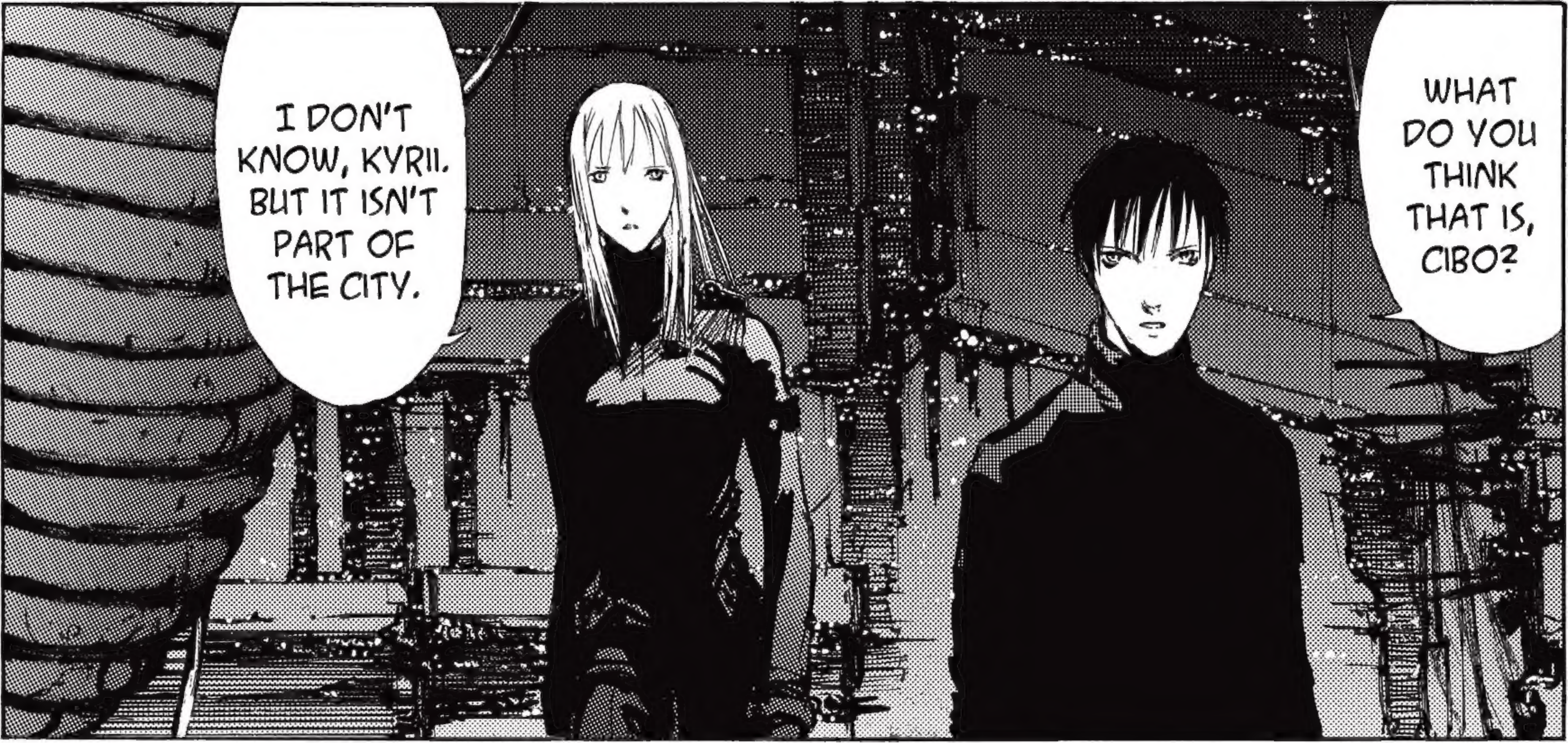




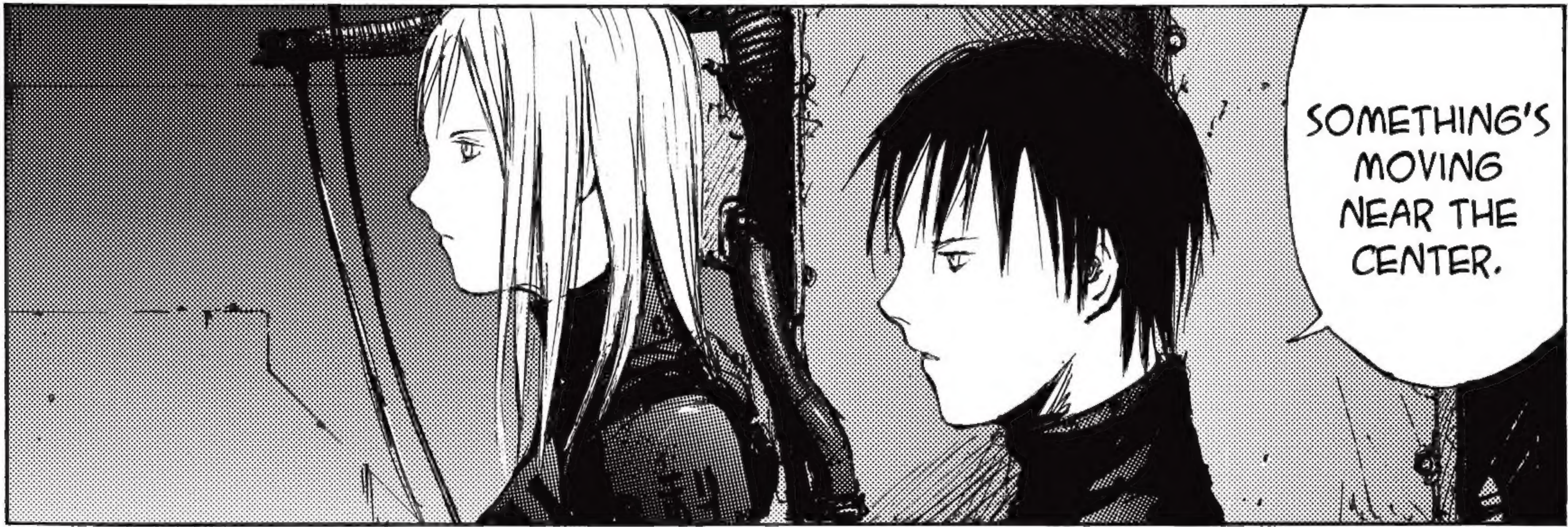
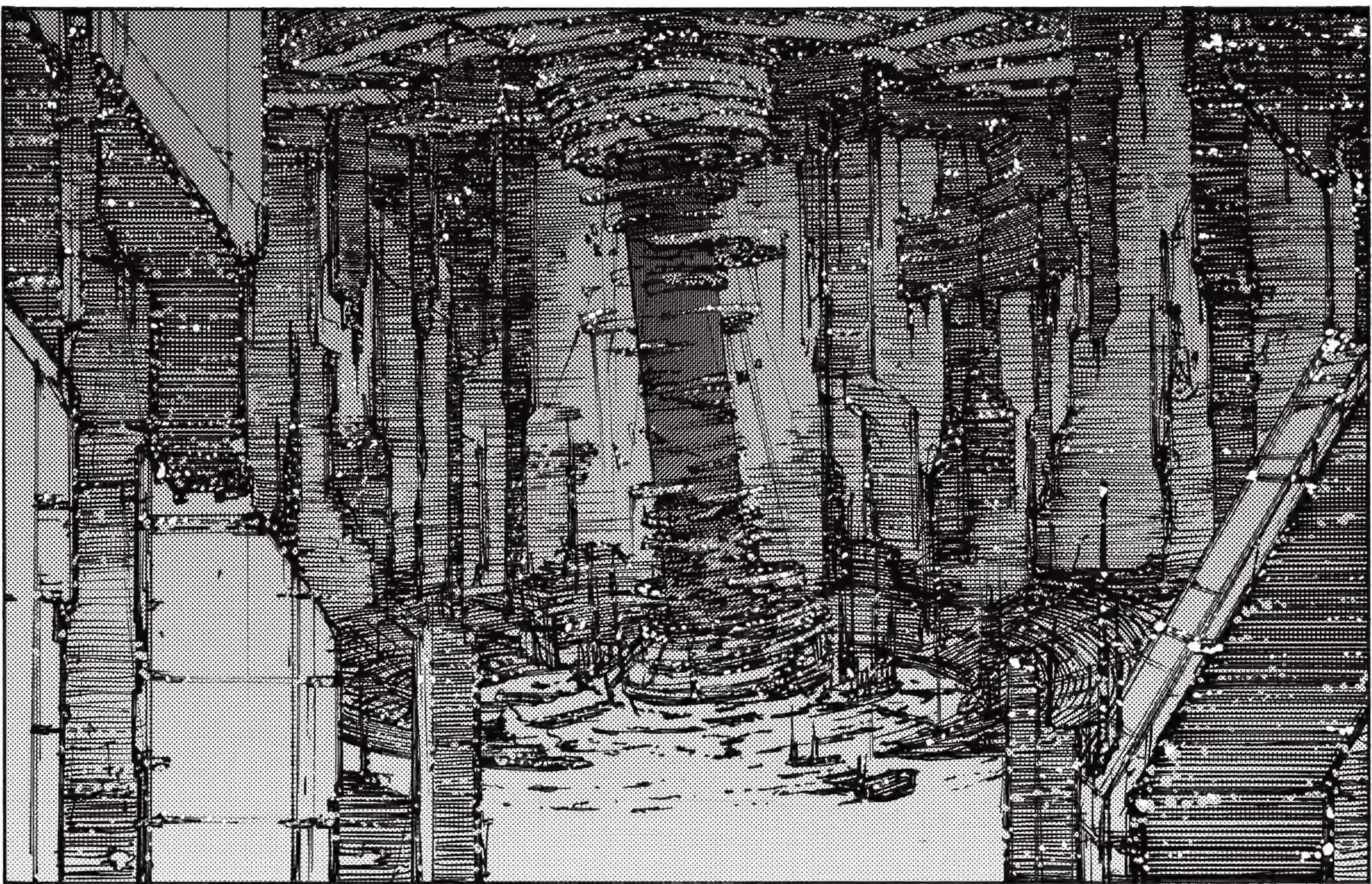


LOG.12:
STORAGE KING

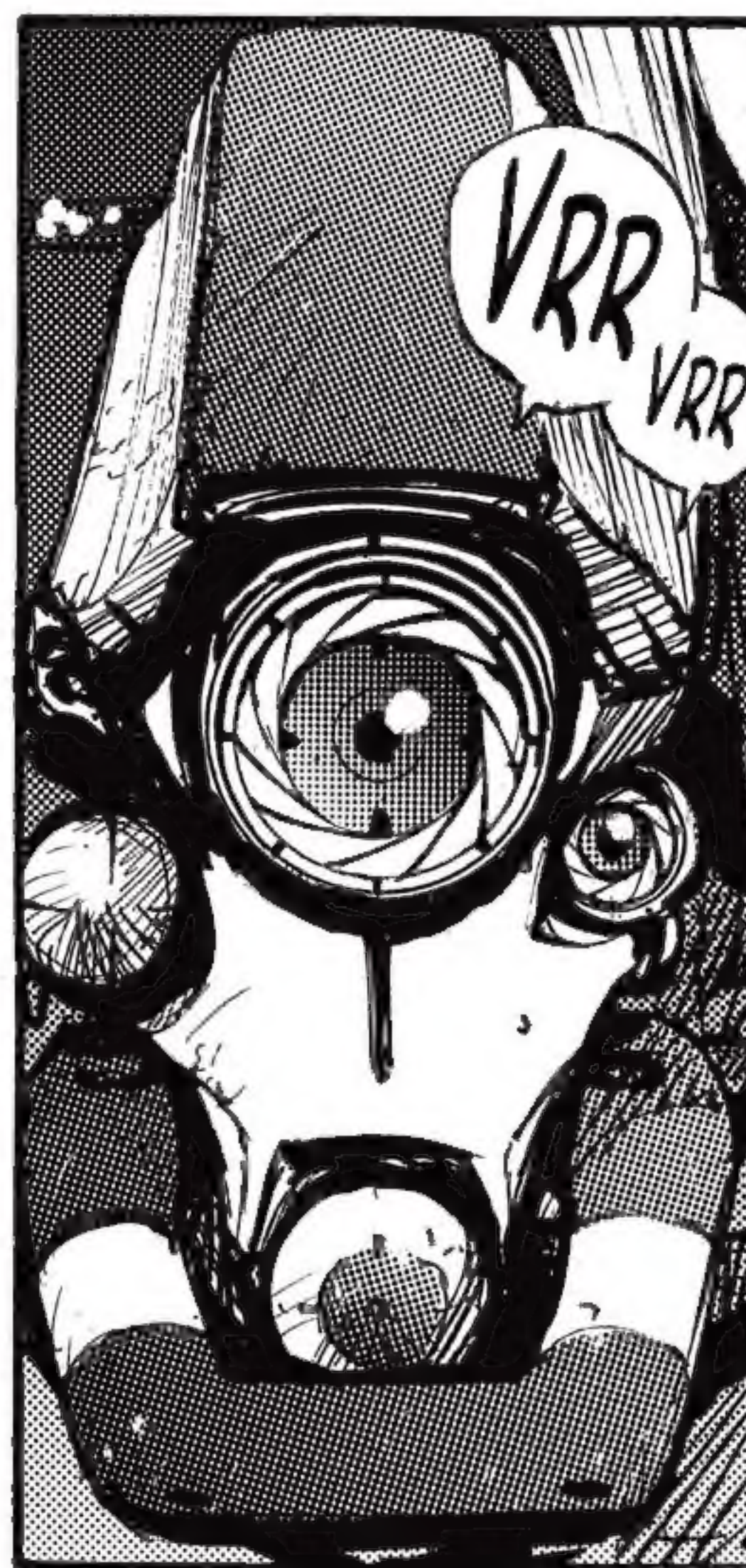
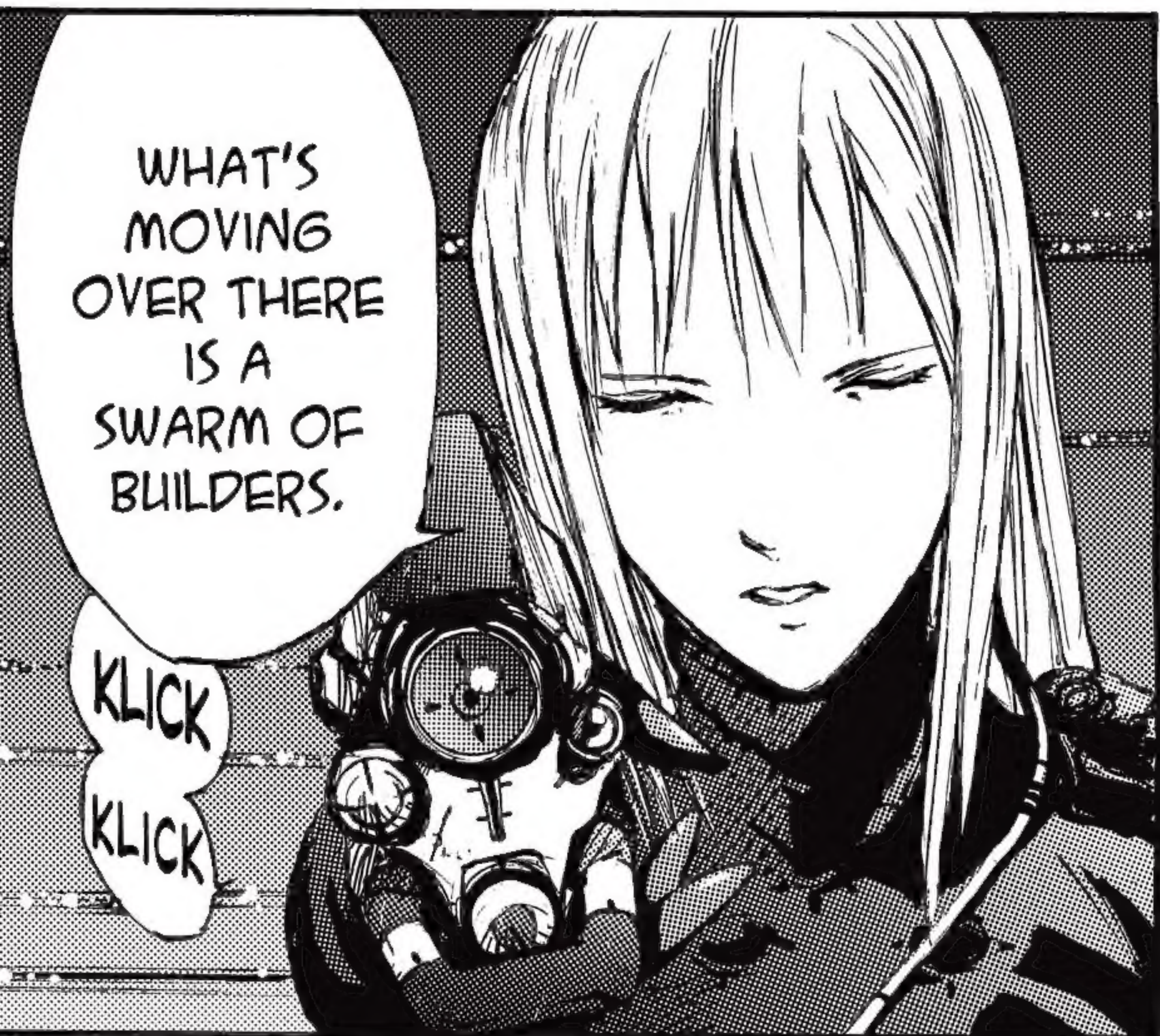
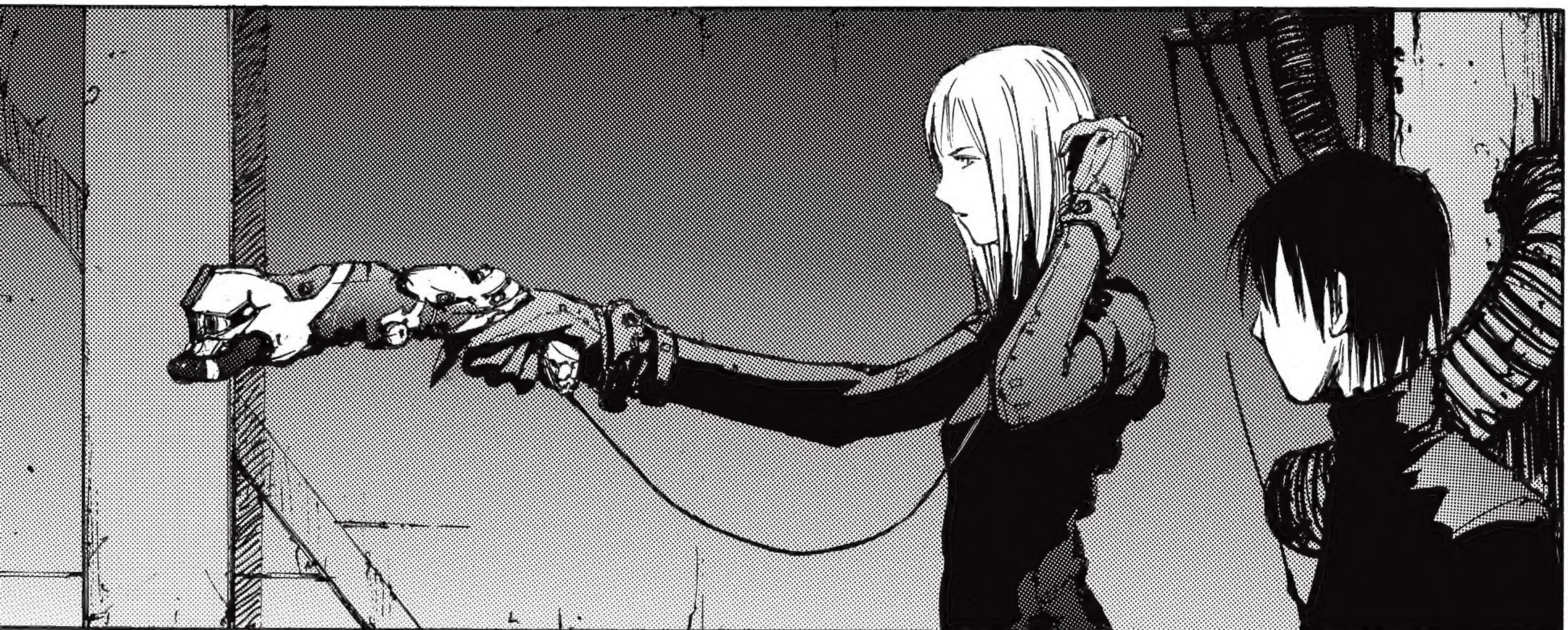
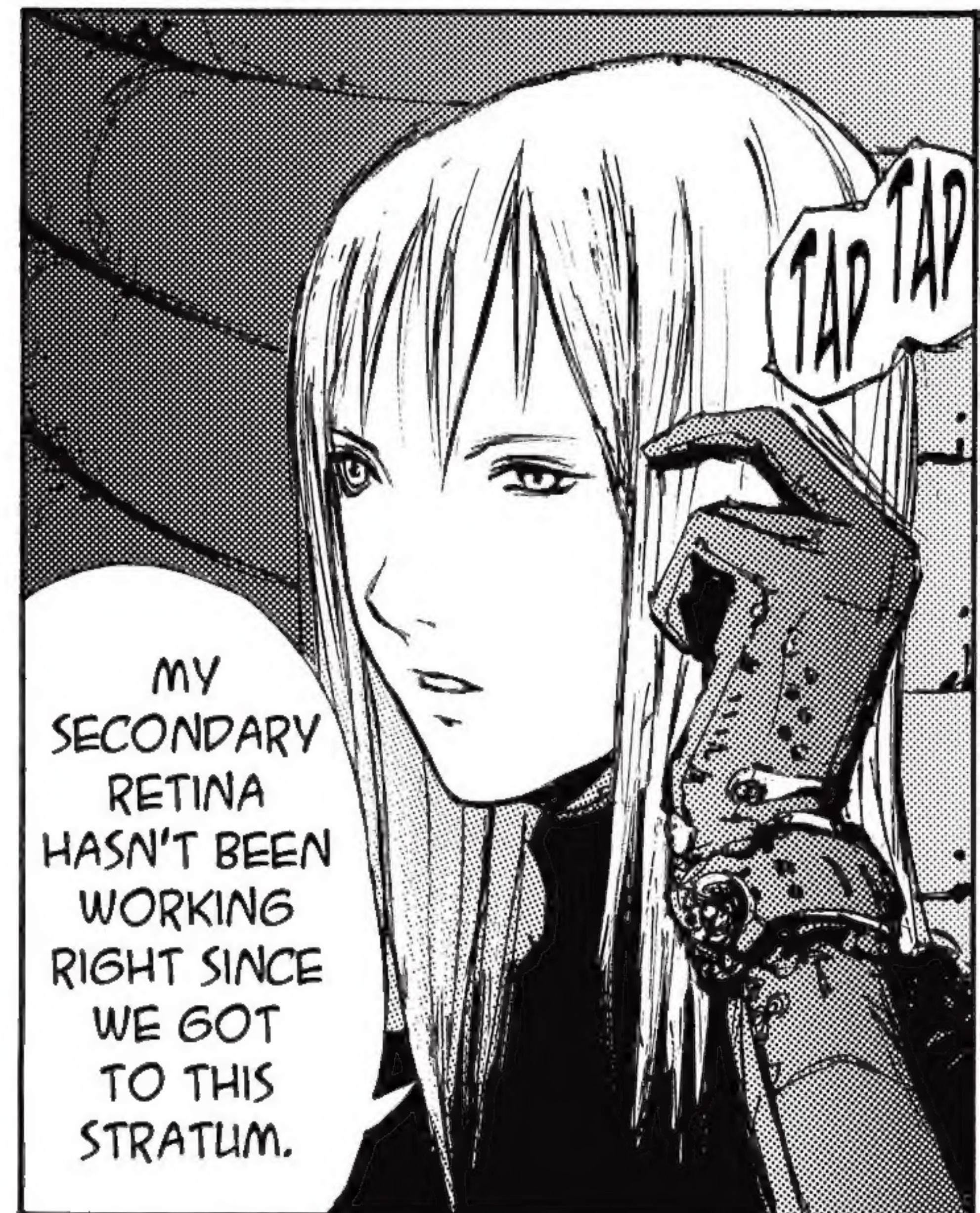
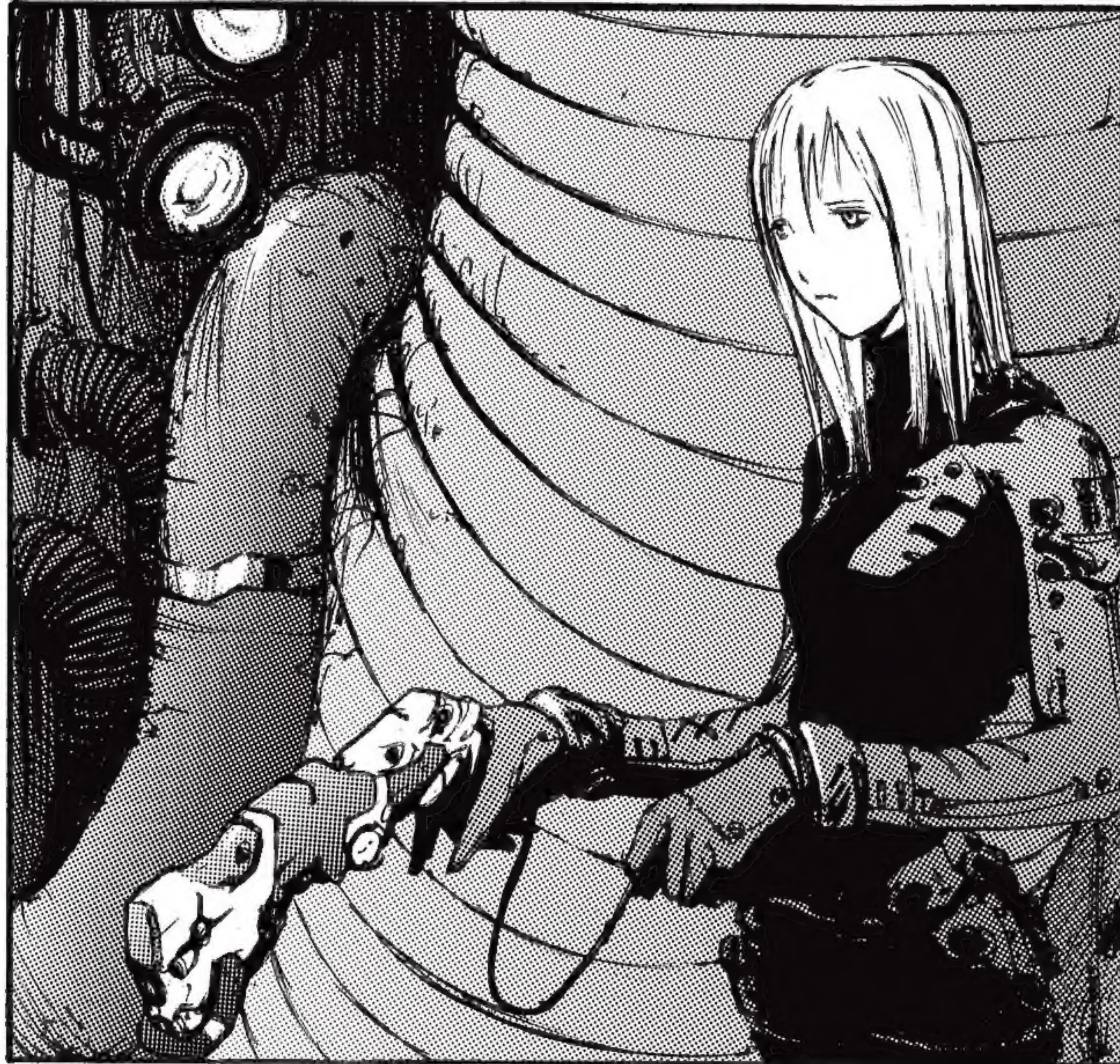


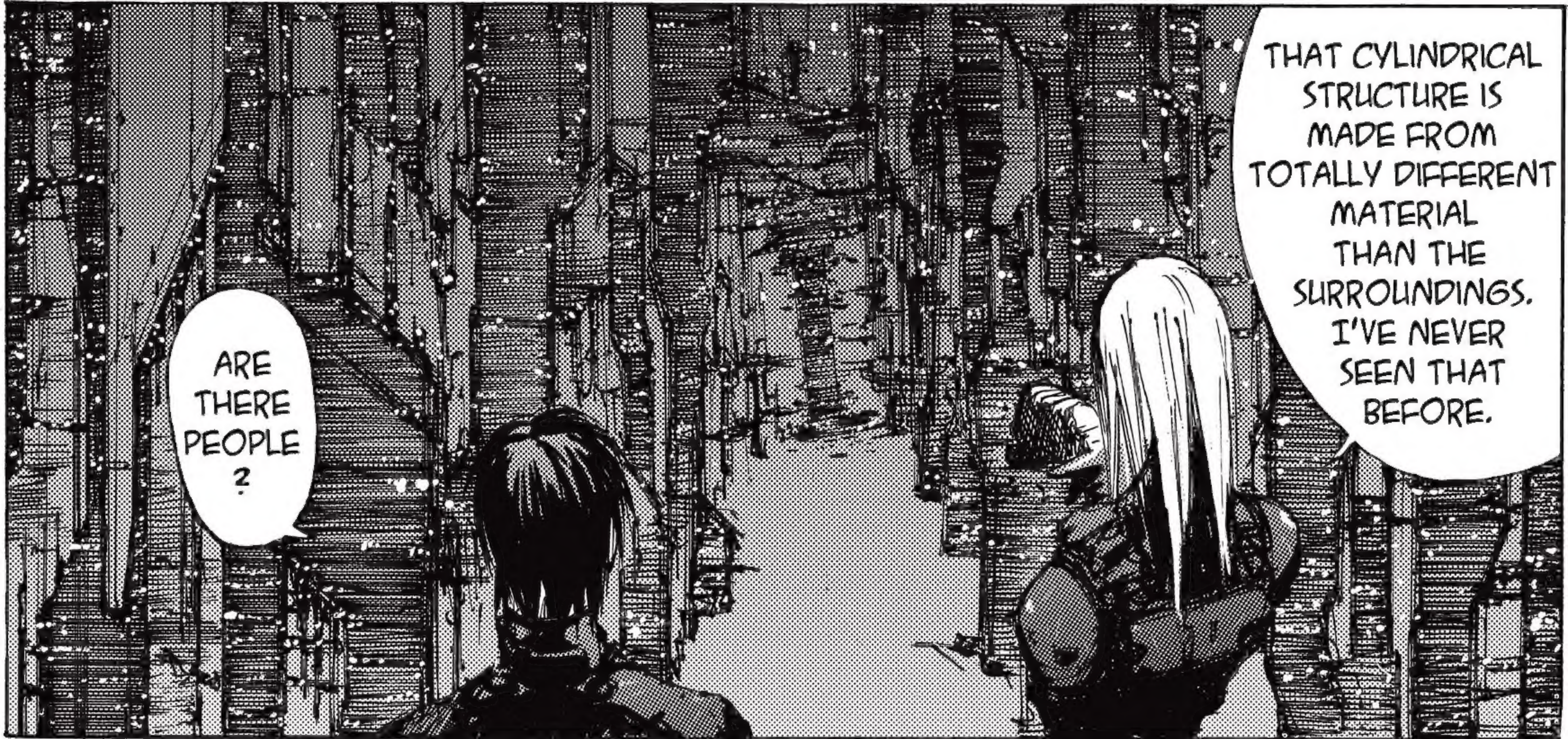
I DON'T
KNOW, KYRII.
BUT IT ISN'T
PART OF
THE CITY.

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK
THAT IS,
CIBO?



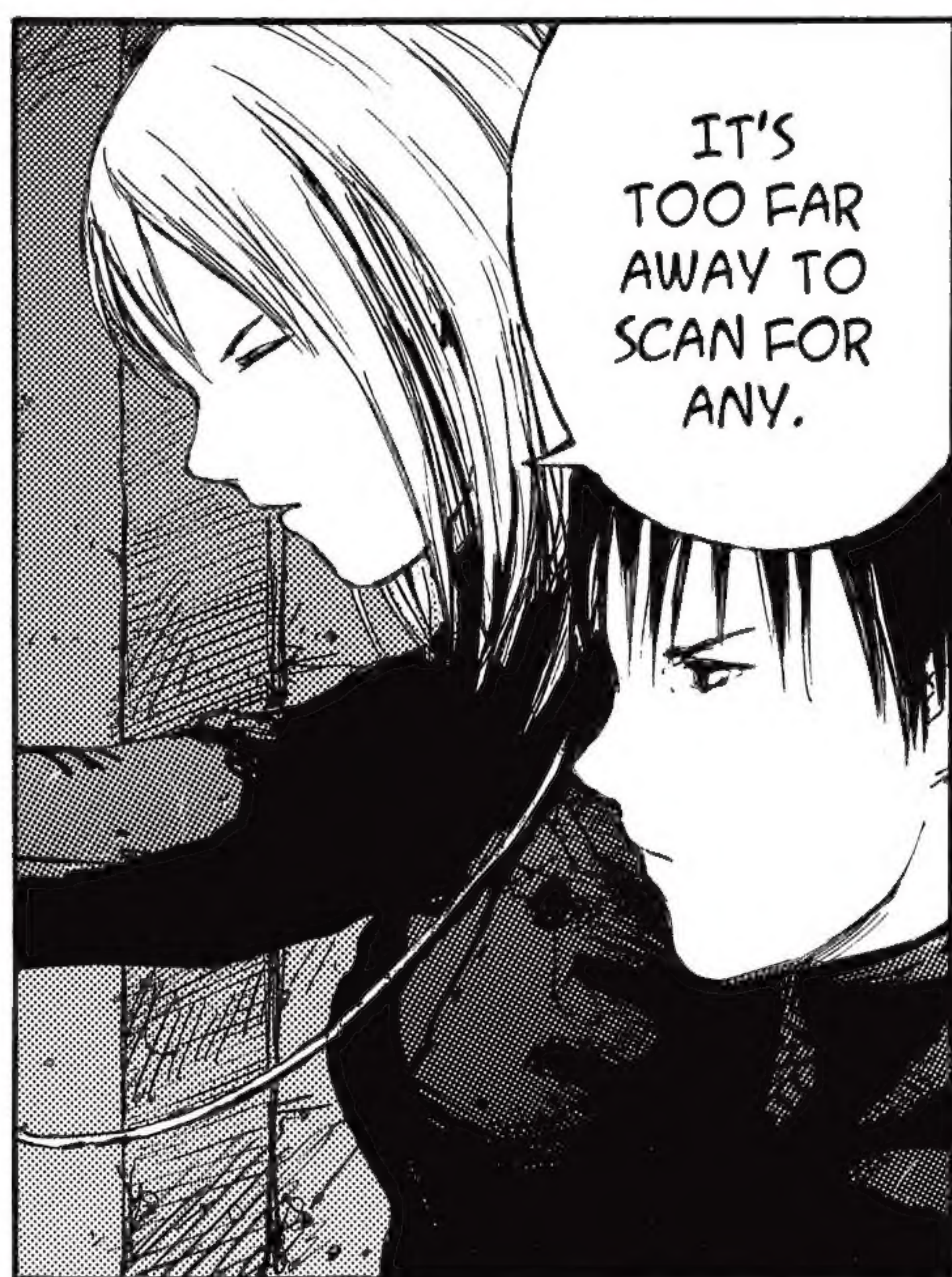
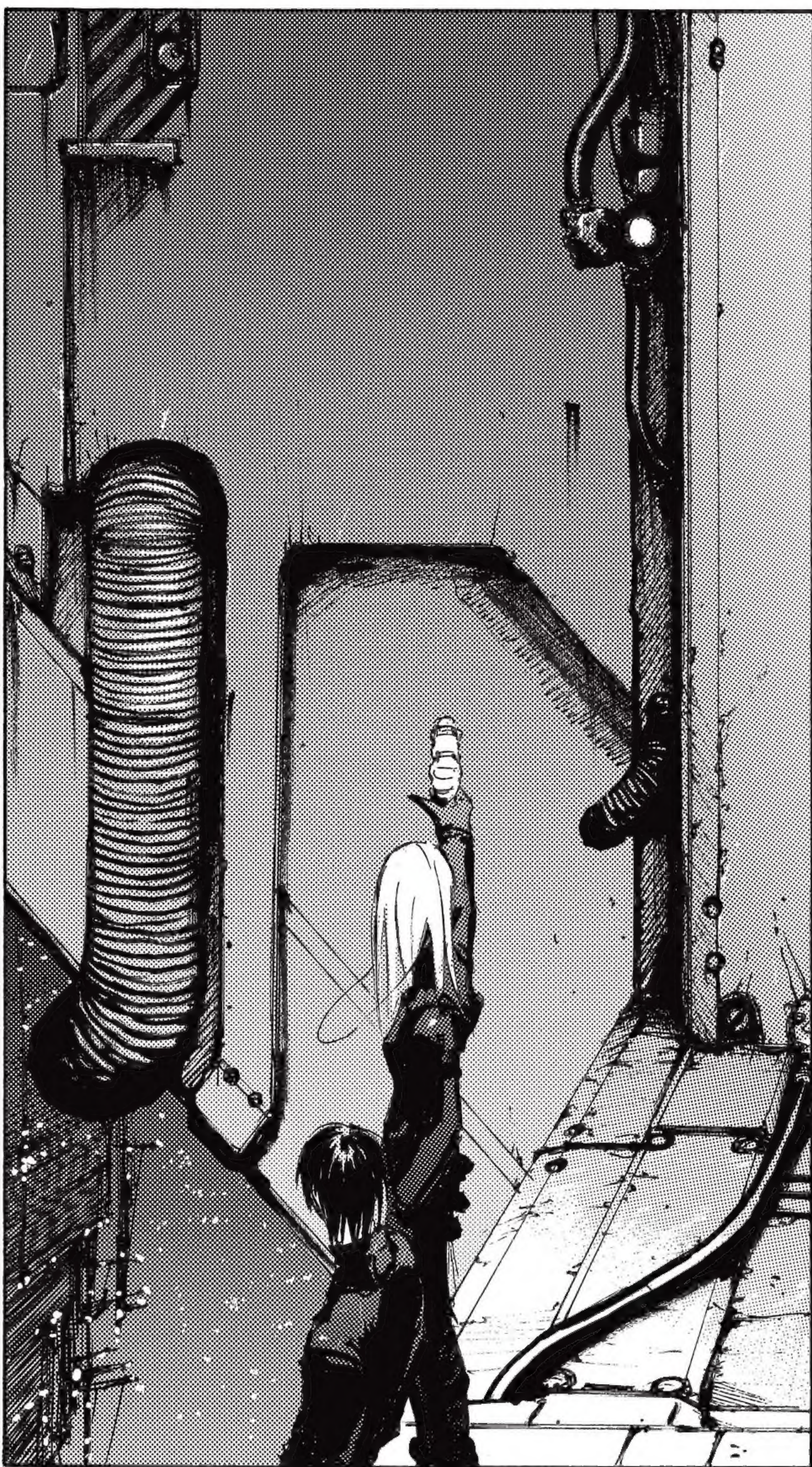
SOMETHING'S
MOVING
NEAR THE
CENTER.



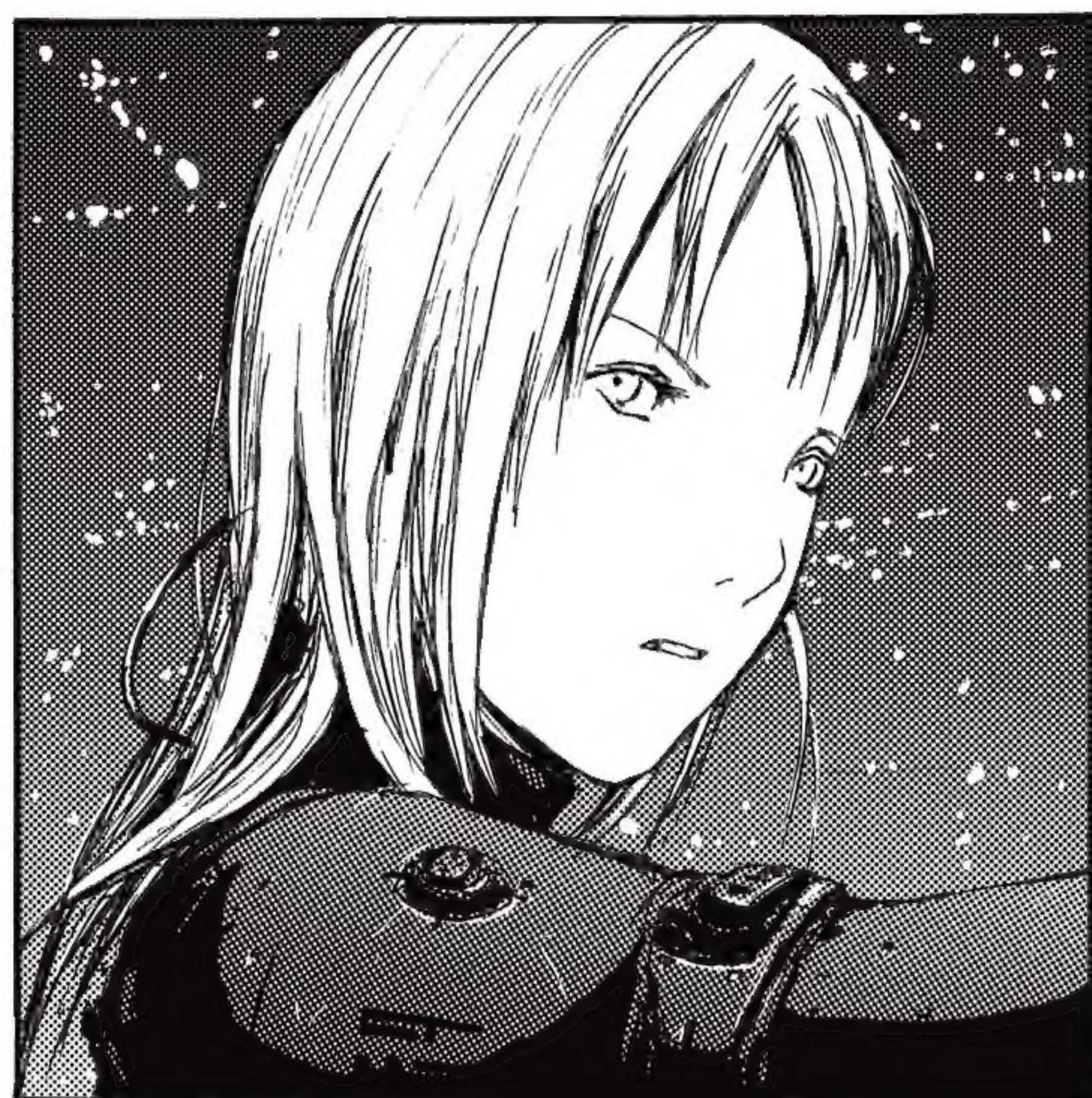


ARE
THERE
PEOPLE
?

THAT CYLINDRICAL
STRUCTURE IS
MADE FROM
TOTALLY DIFFERENT
MATERIAL
THAN THE
SURROUNDINGS.
I'VE NEVER
SEEN THAT
BEFORE.



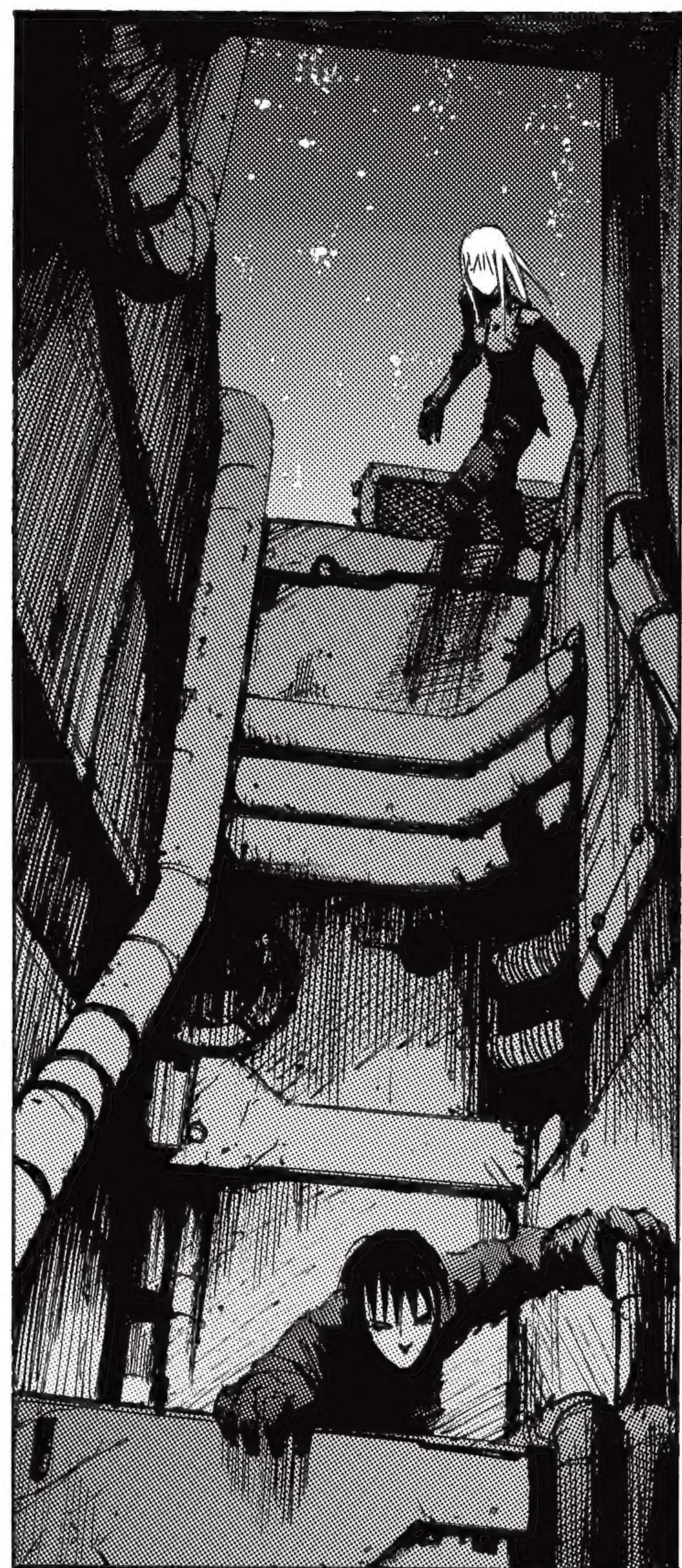
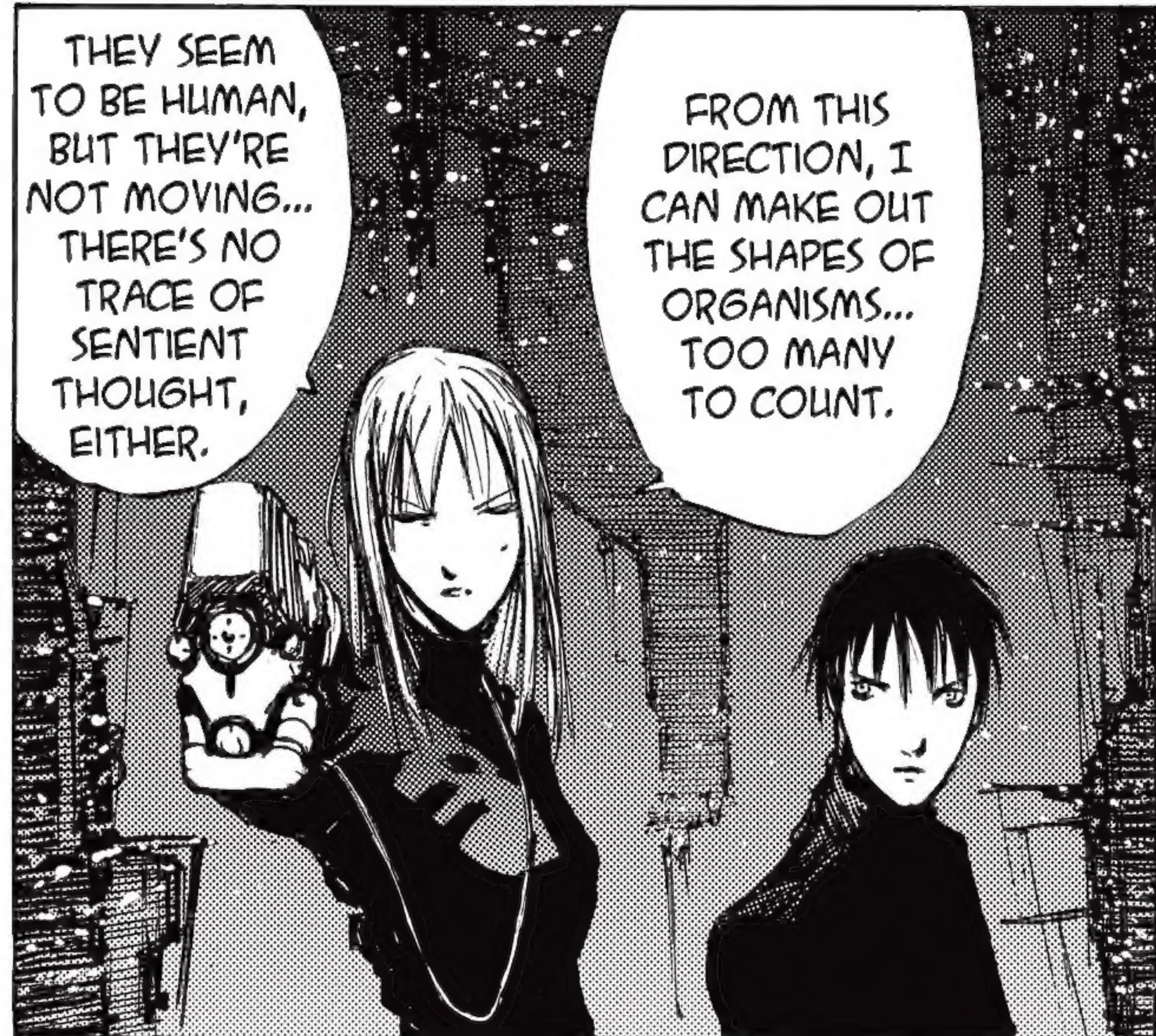
IT'S
TOO FAR
AWAY TO
SCAN FOR
ANY.

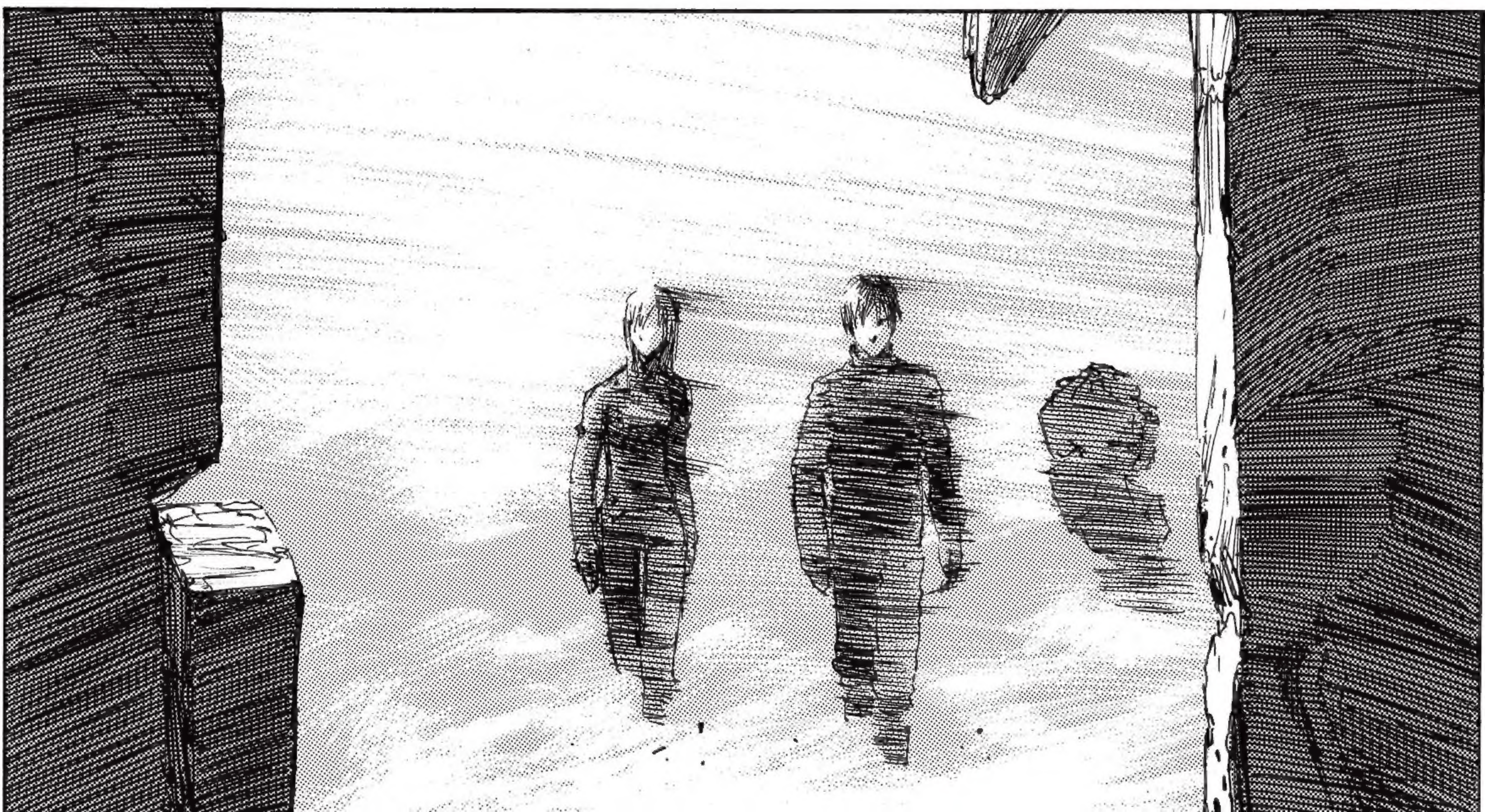
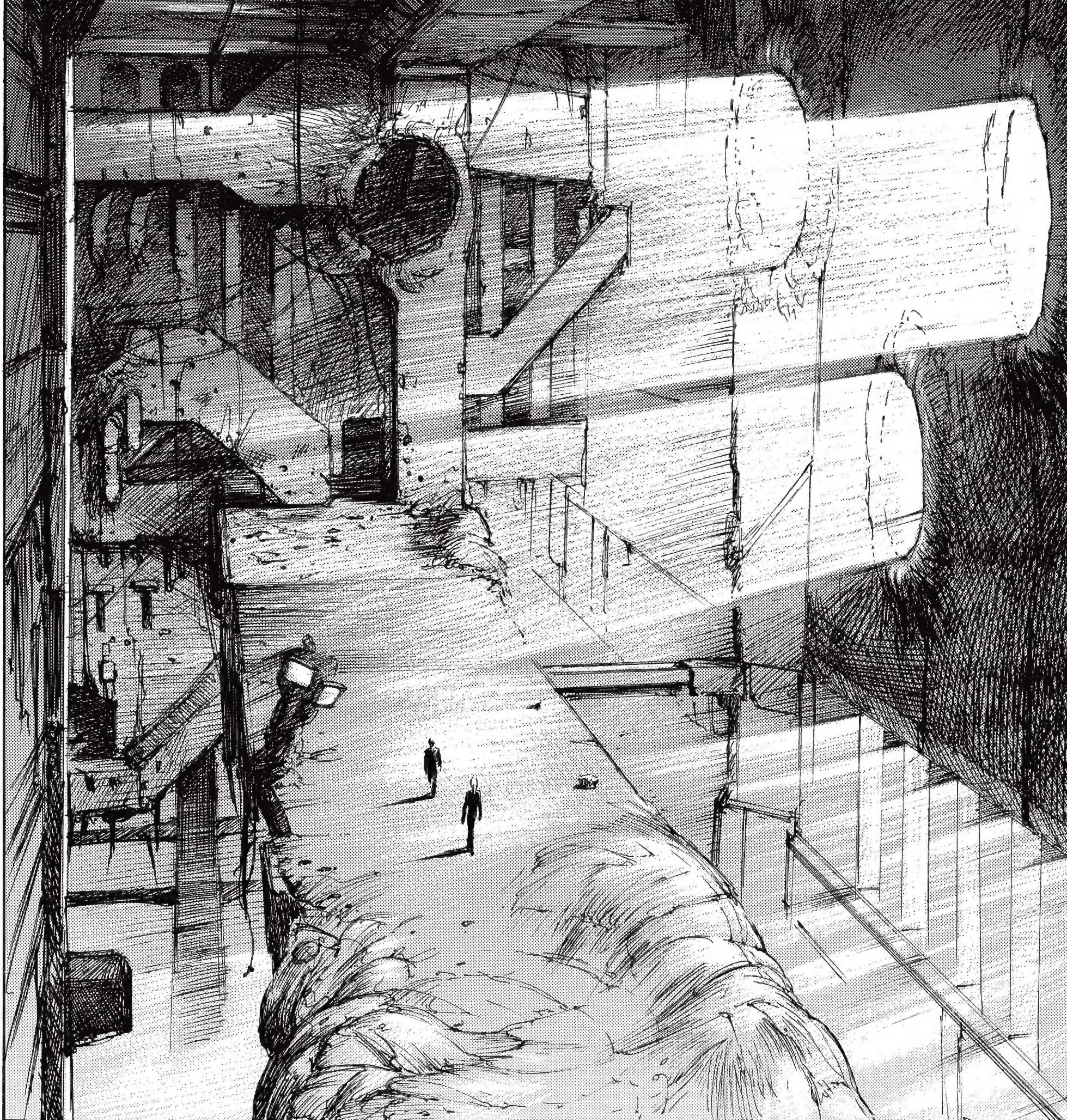


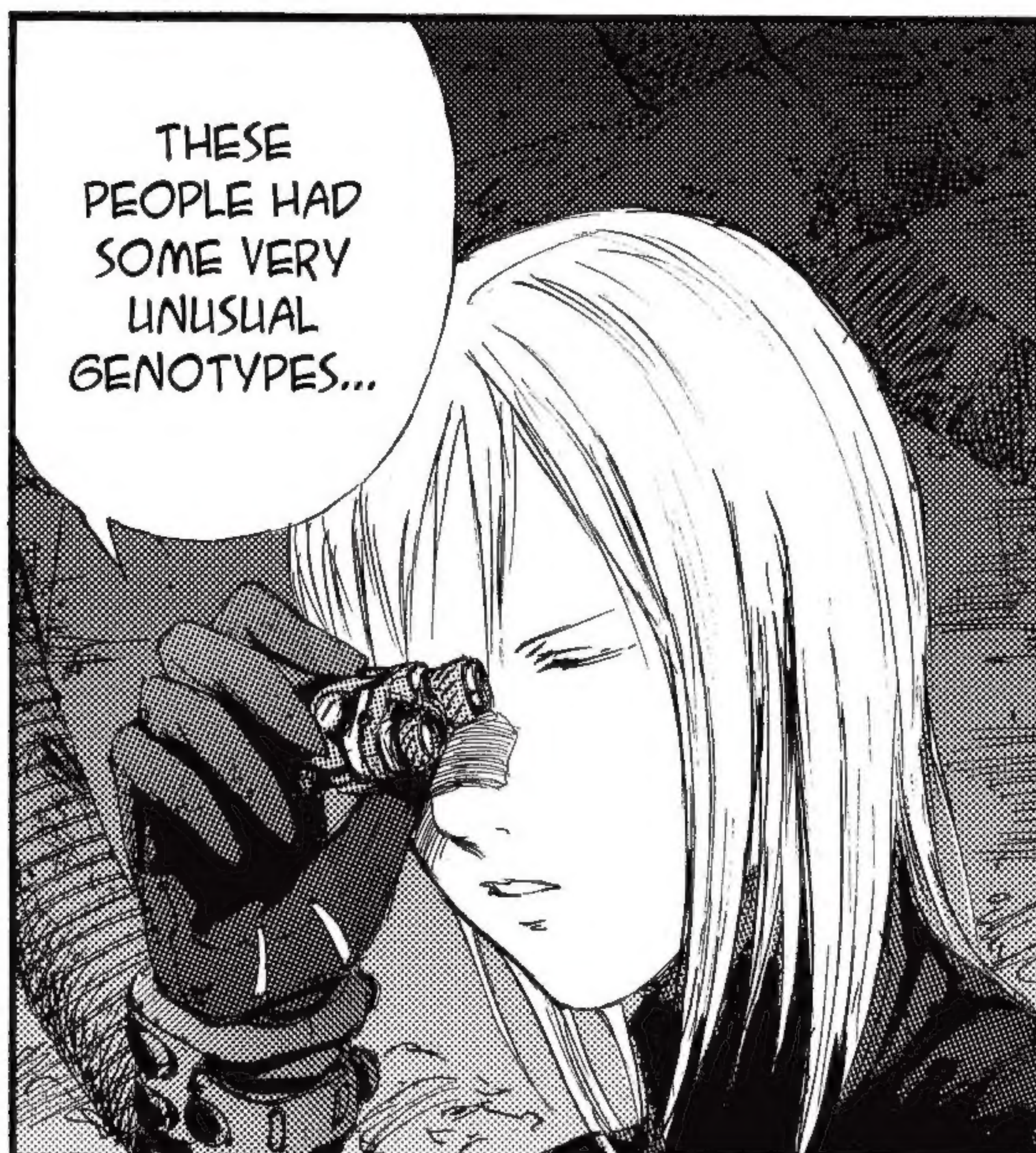
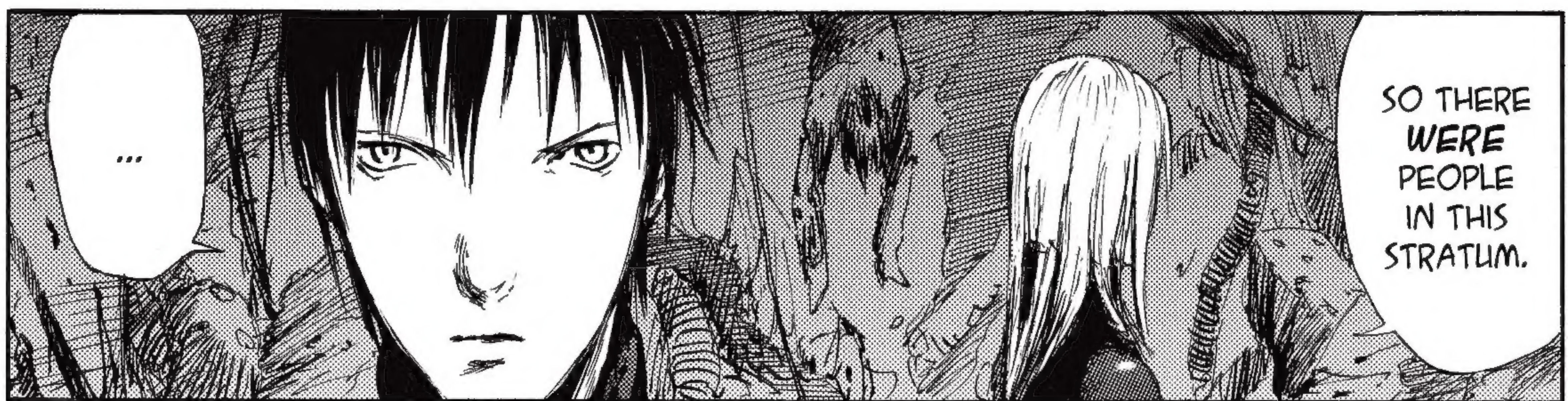
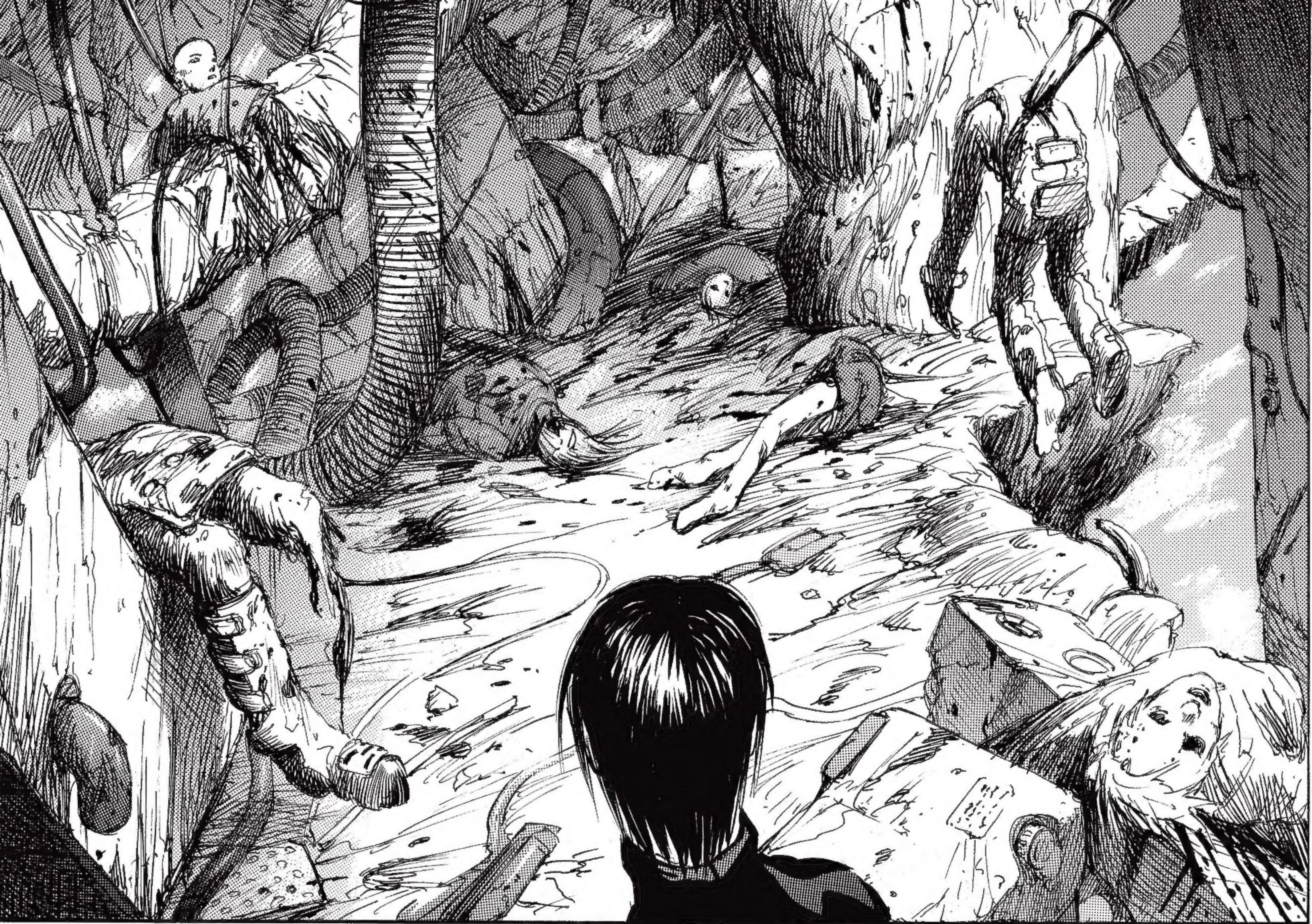


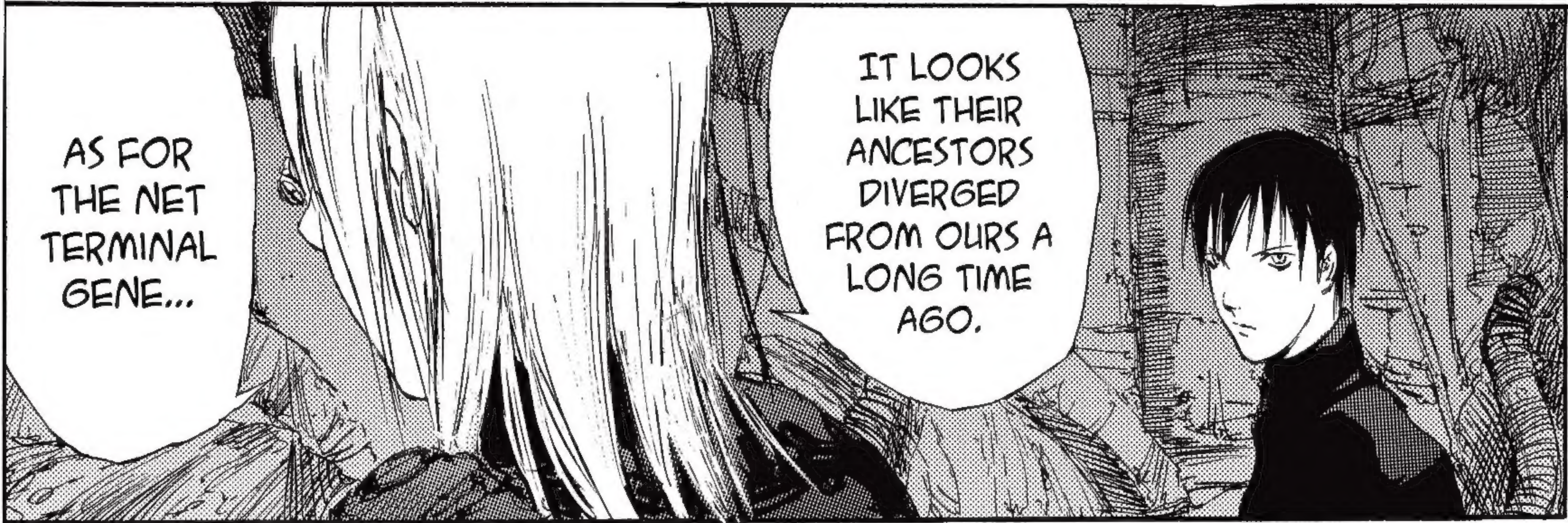
THEY SEEM
TO BE HUMAN,
BUT THEY'RE
NOT MOVING...
THERE'S NO
TRACE OF
SENTIENT
THOUGHT,
EITHER.

FROM THIS
DIRECTION, I
CAN MAKE OUT
THE SHAPES OF
ORGANISMS...
TOO MANY
TO COUNT.



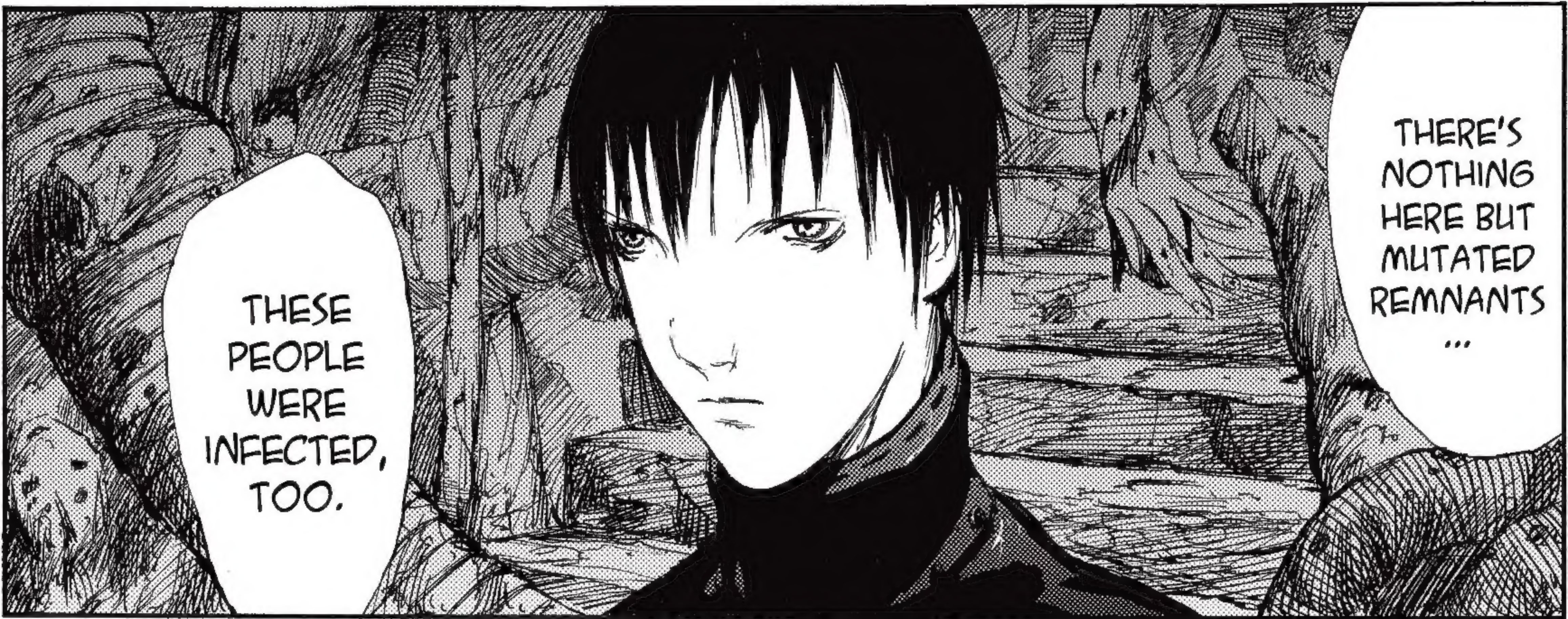






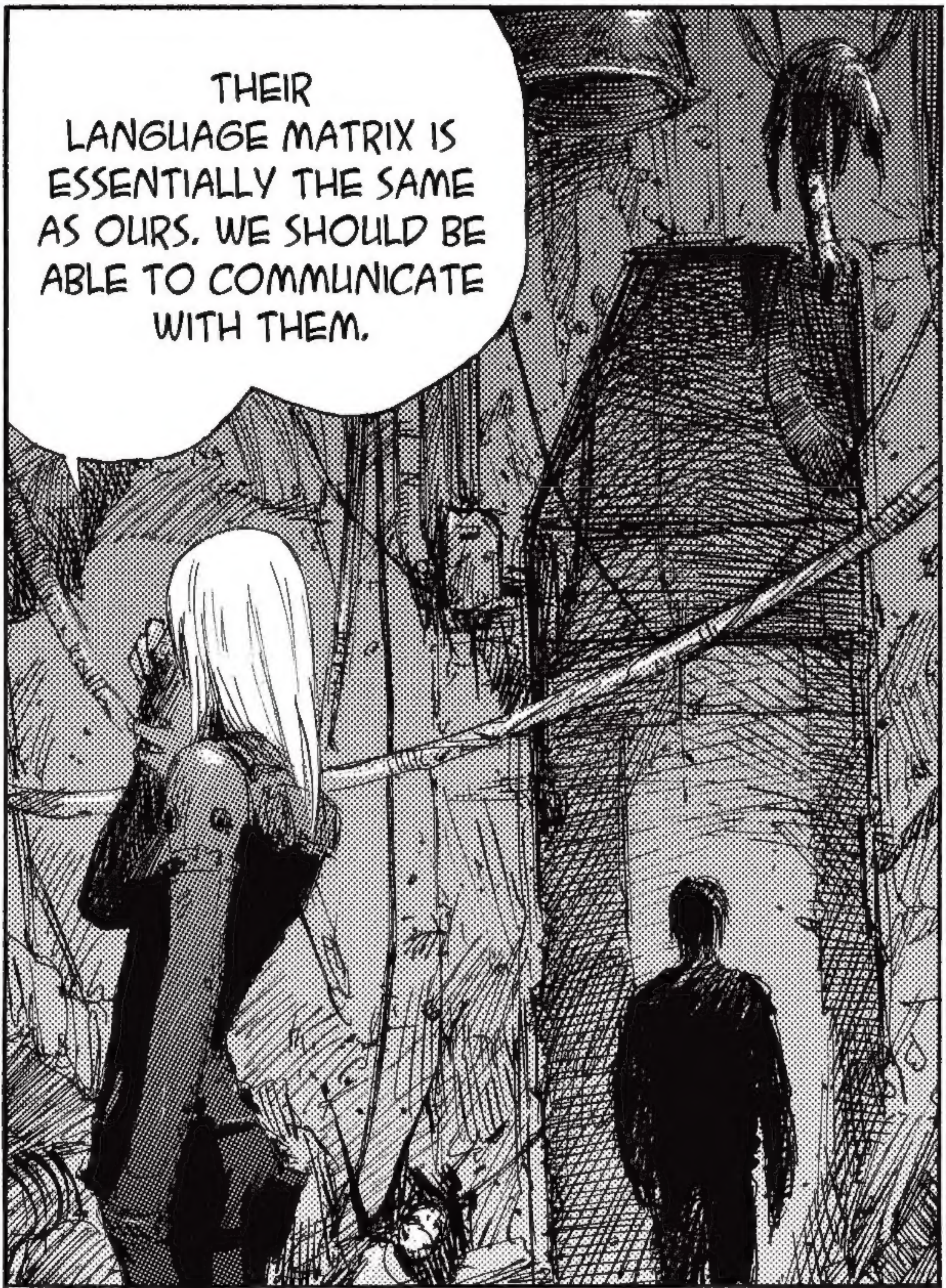
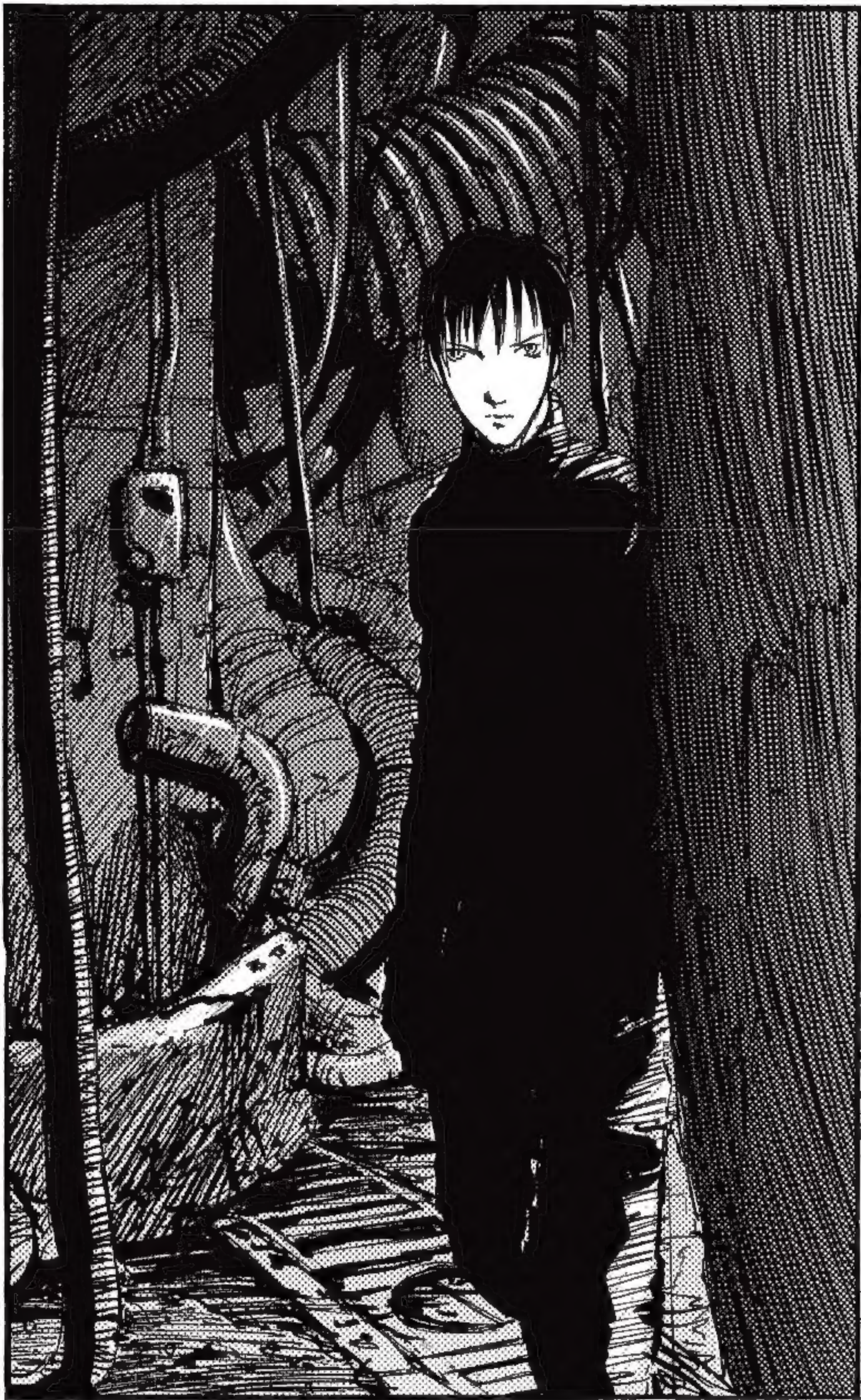
AS FOR
THE NET
TERMINAL
GENE...

IT LOOKS
LIKE THEIR
ANCESTORS
DIVERGED
FROM OURS A
LONG TIME
AGO.

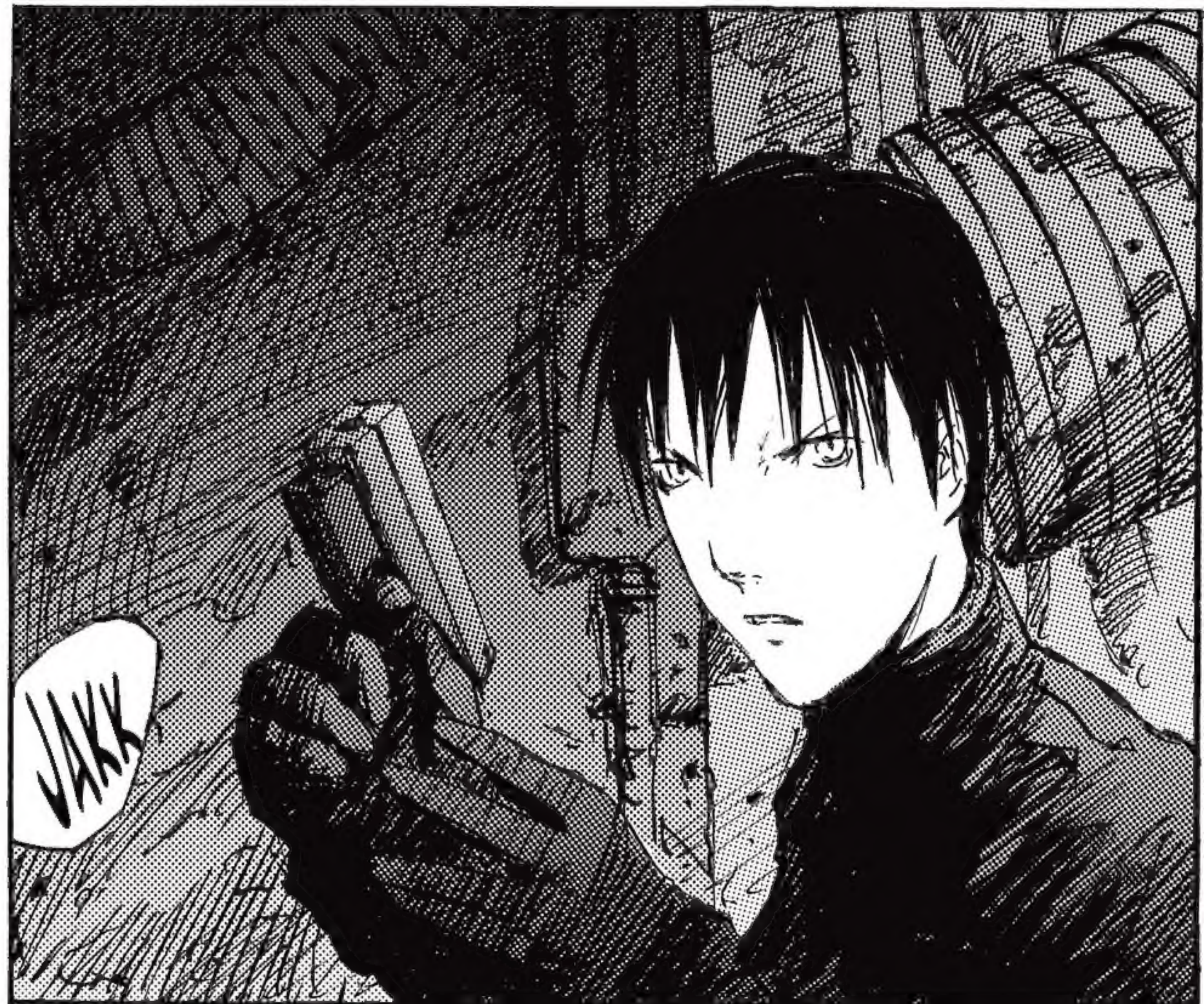
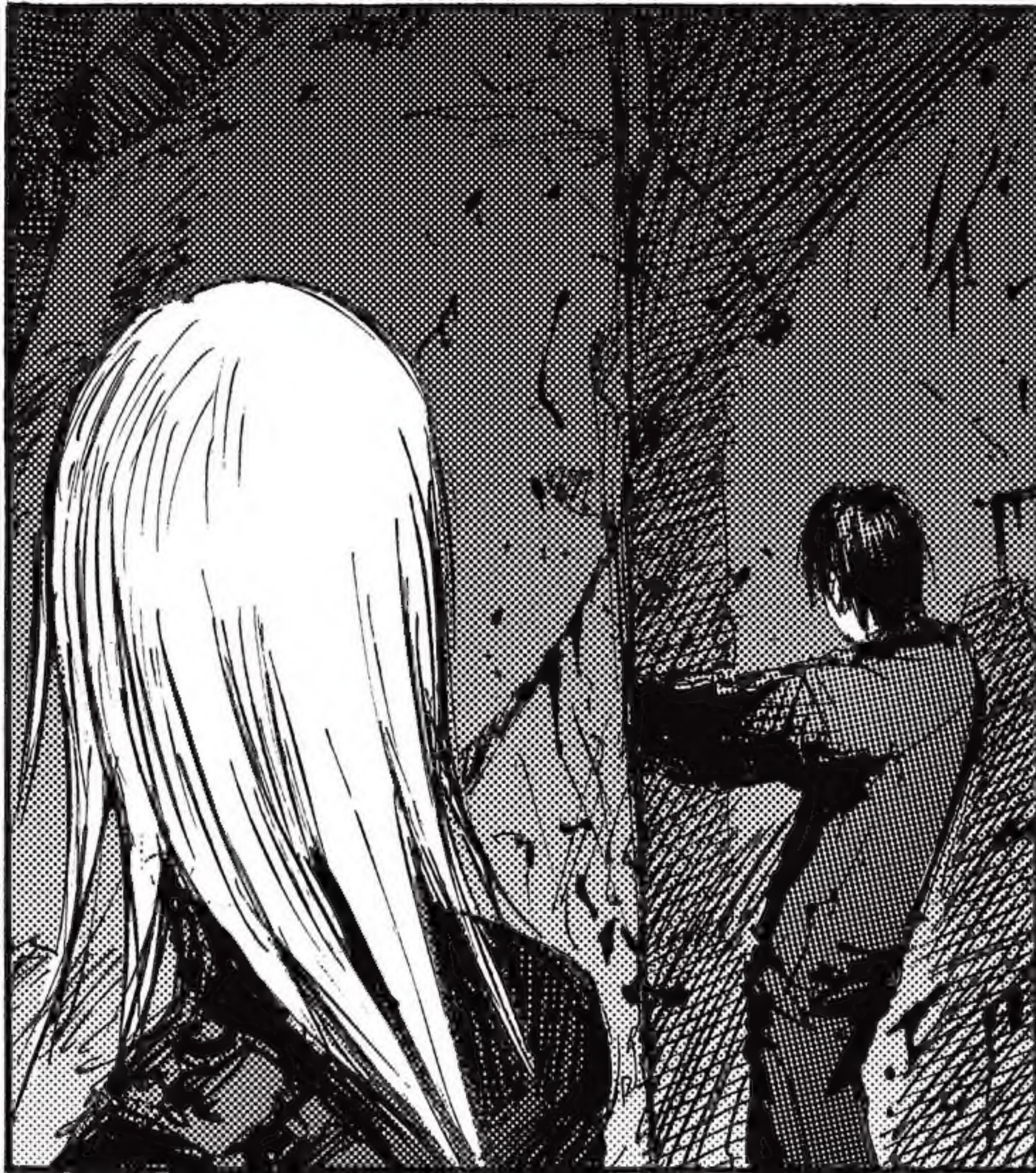


THESE
PEOPLE
WERE
INFECTED,
TOO.

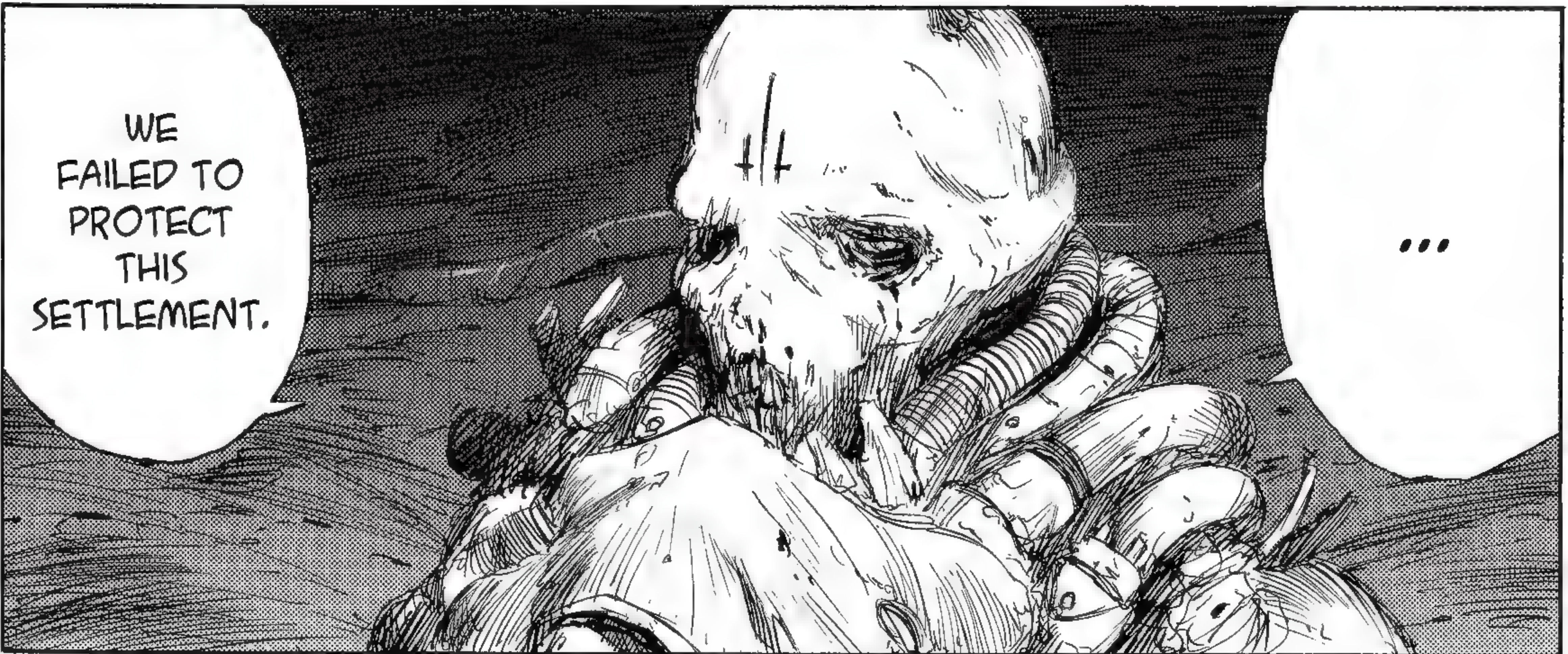
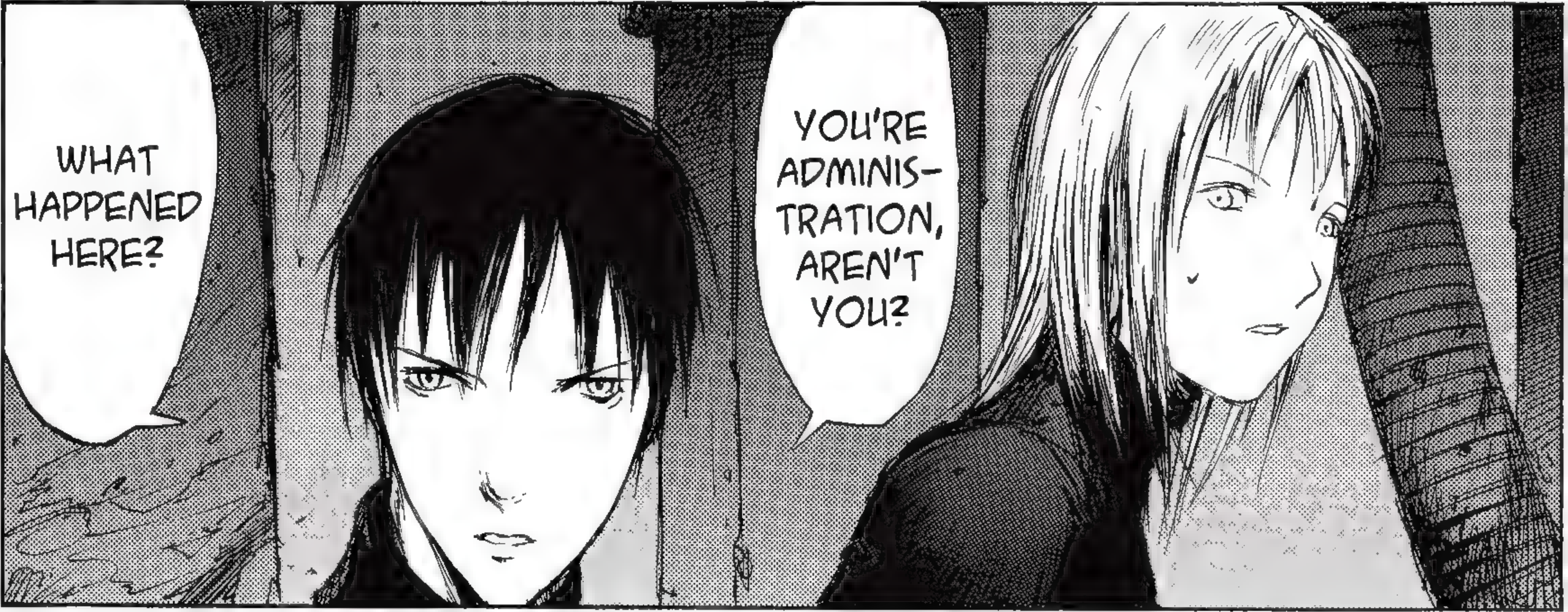
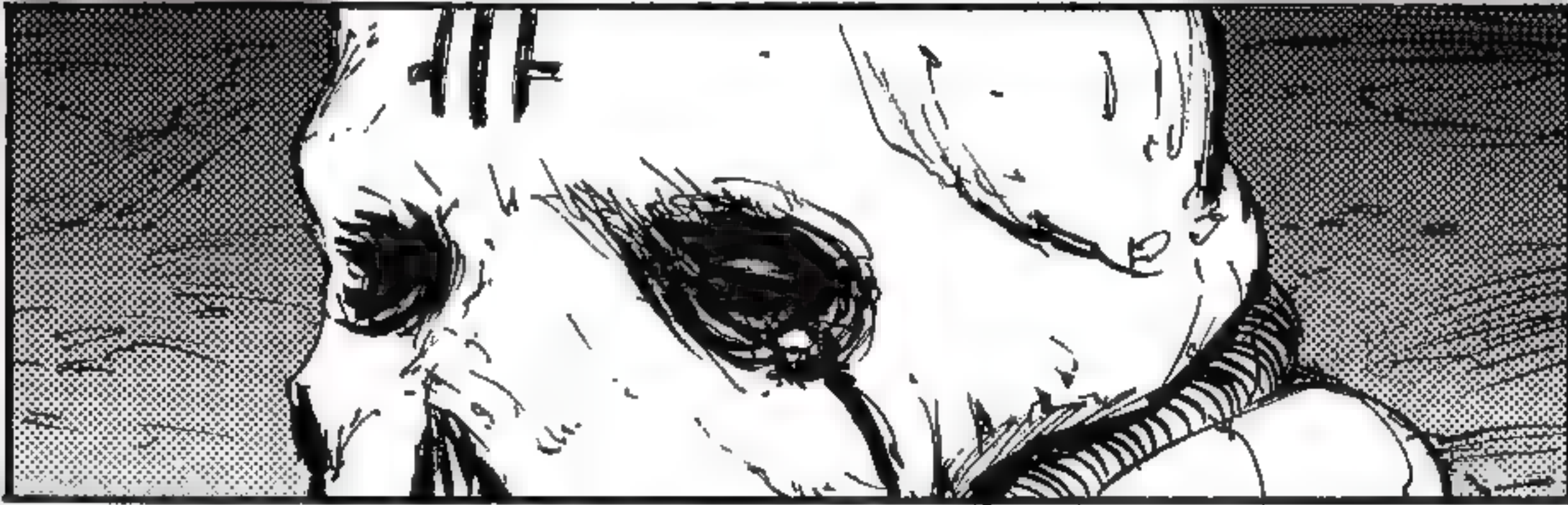
THERE'S
NOTHING
HERE BUT
MUTATED
REMNANTS
...

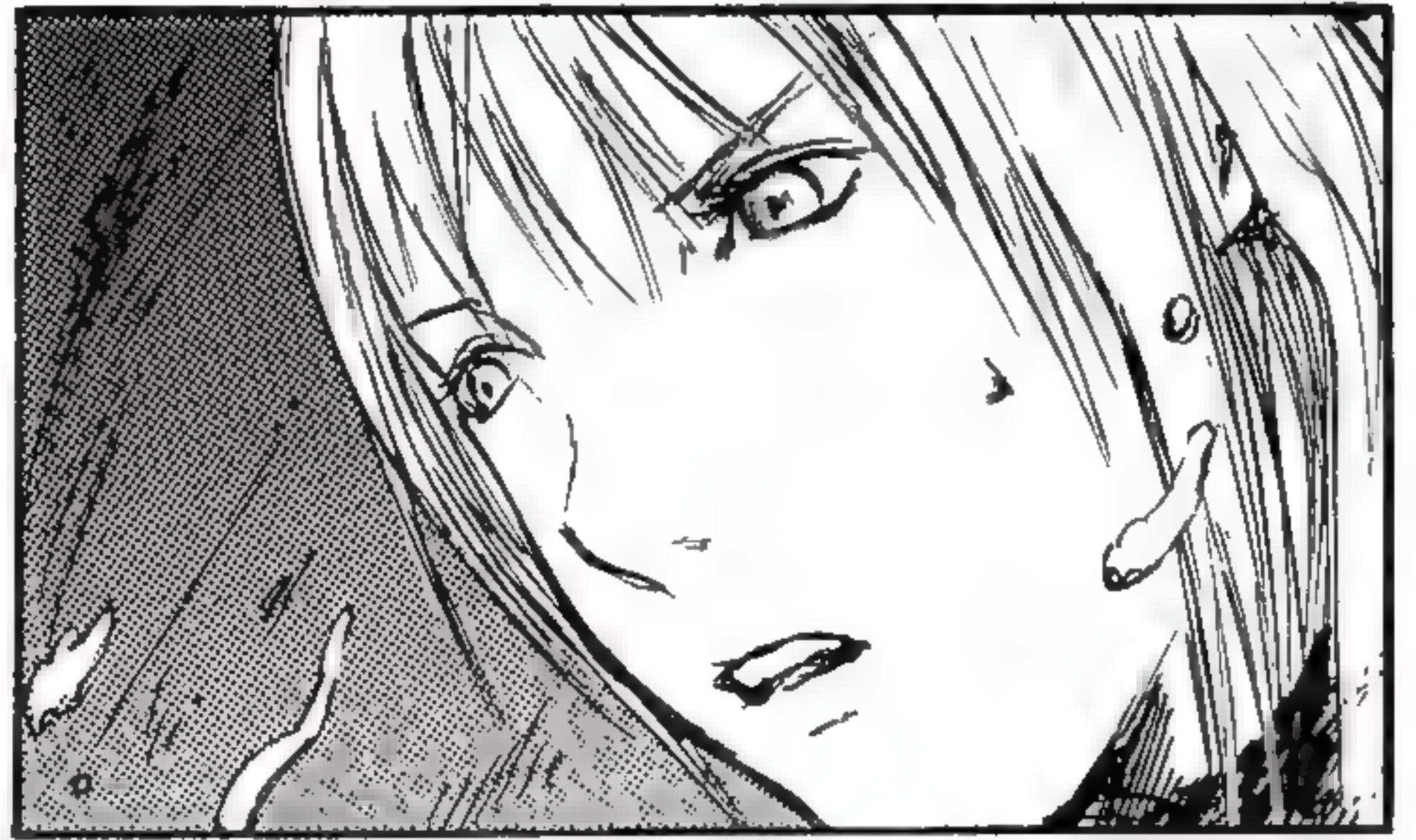
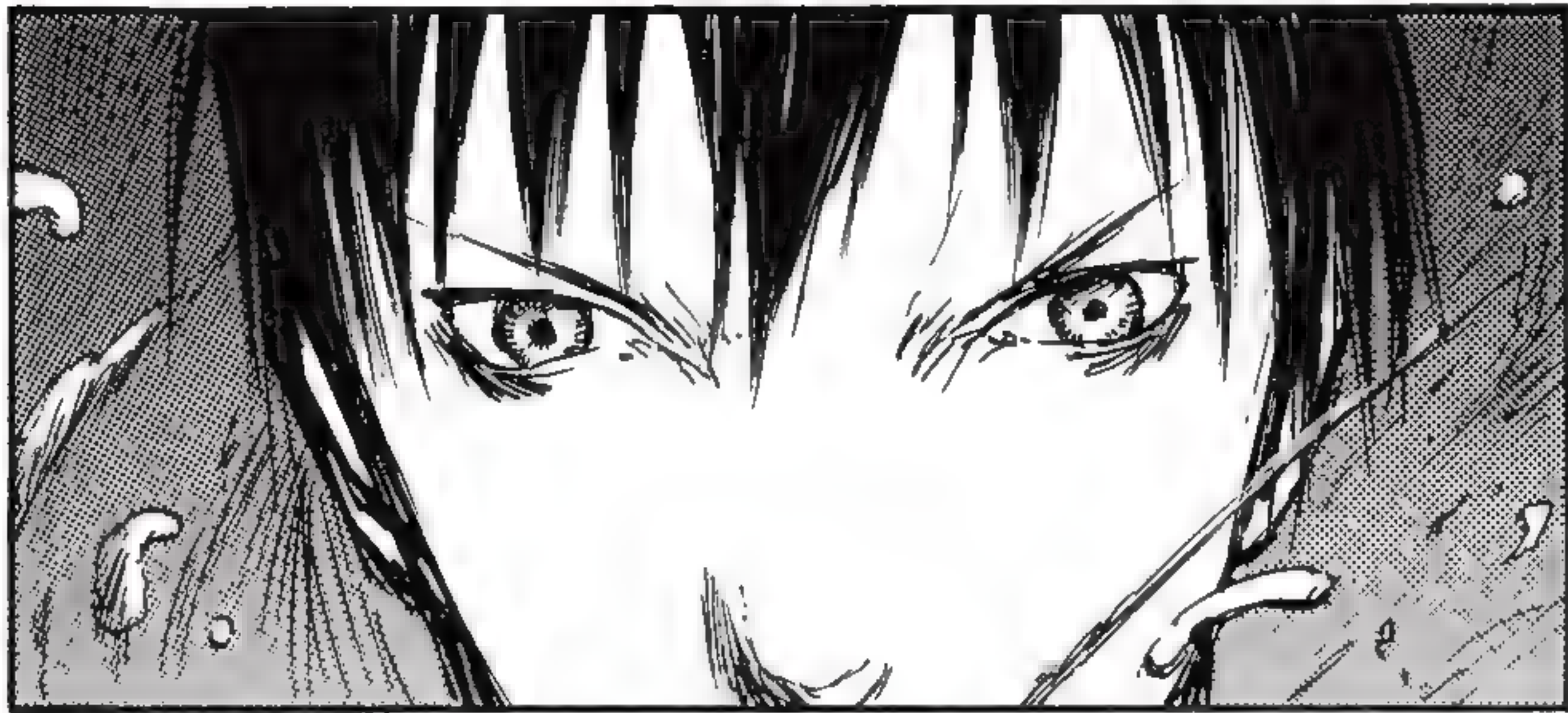
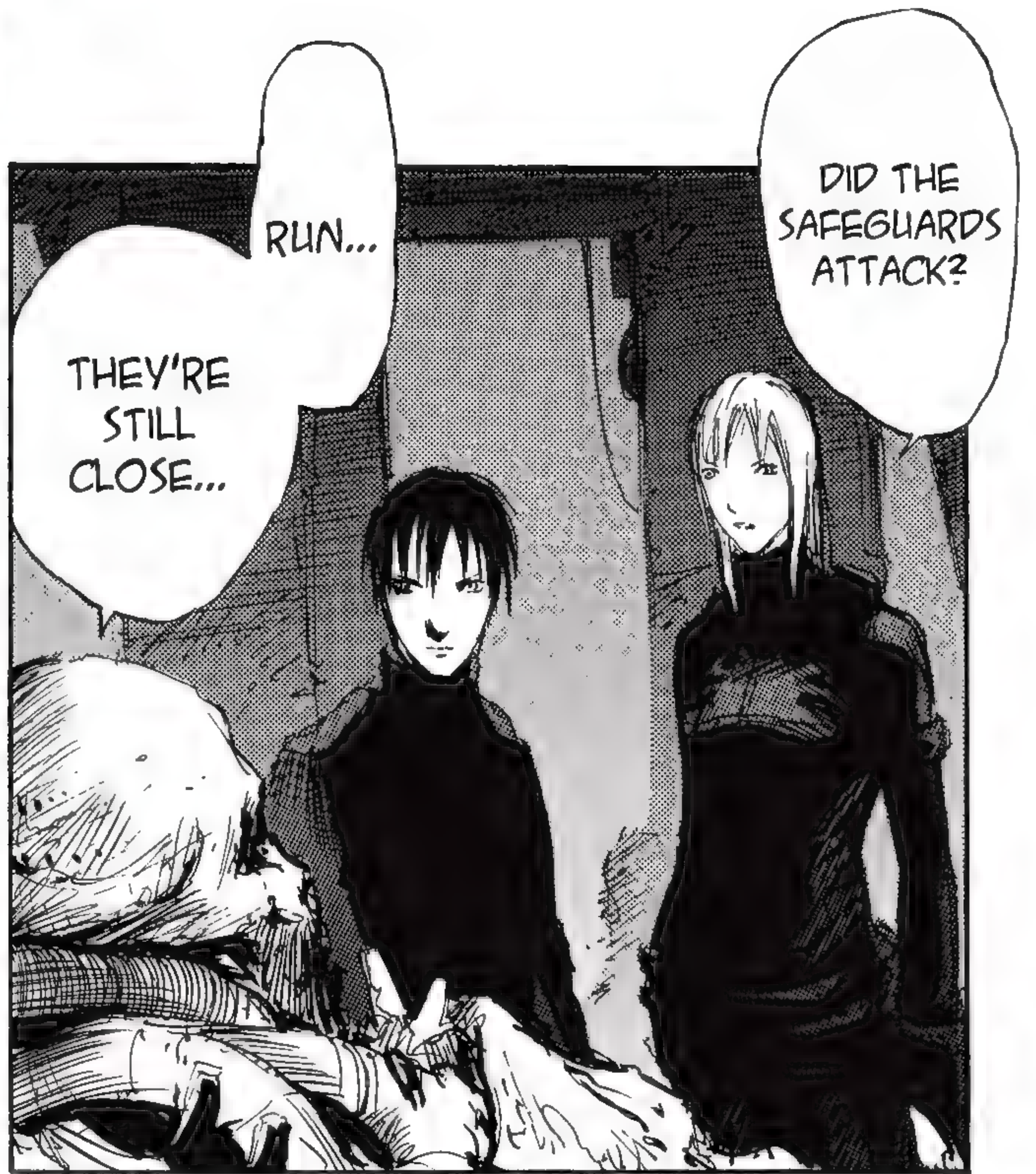


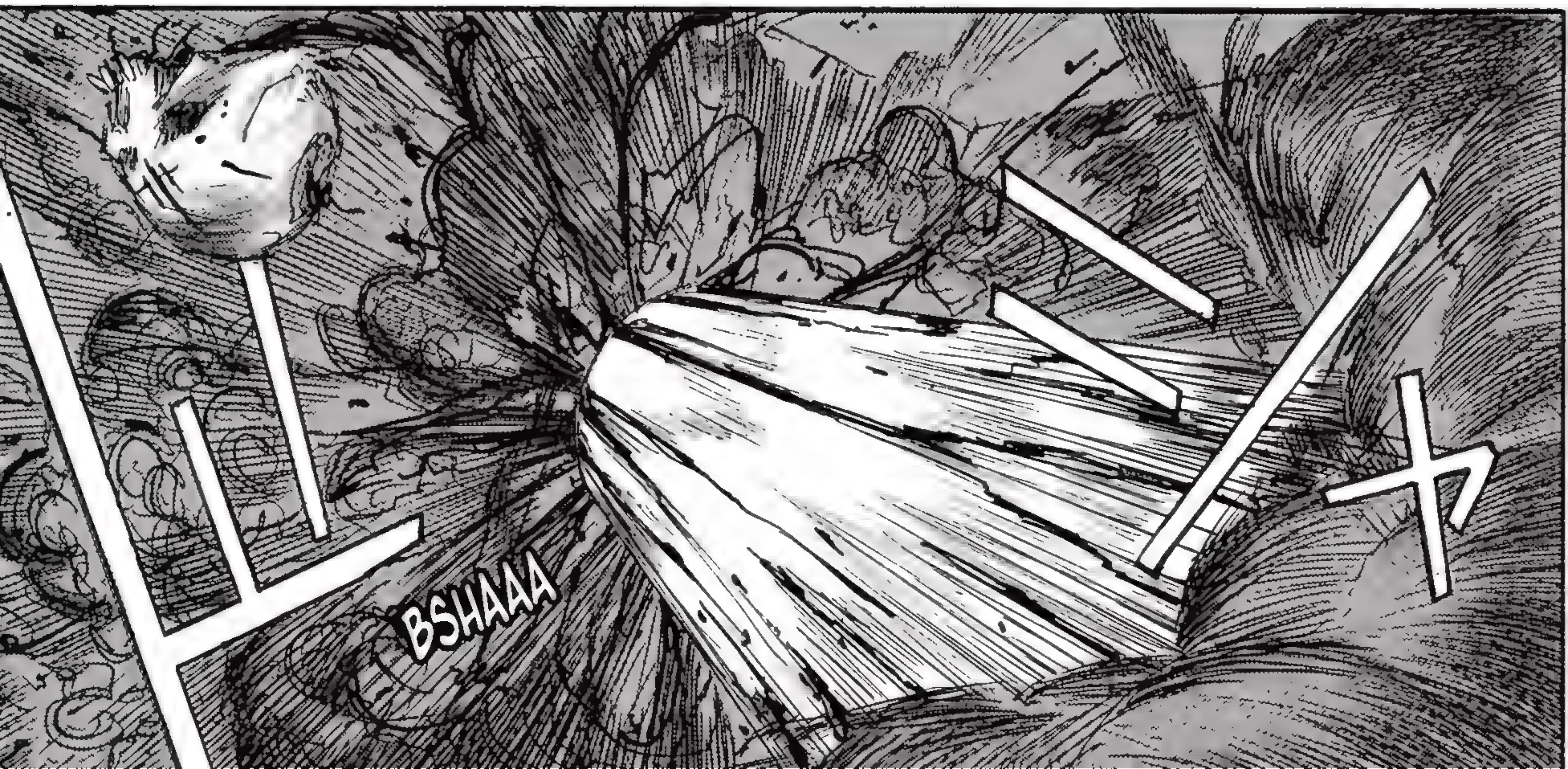
THEIR
LANGUAGE MATRIX IS
ESSENTIALLY THE SAME
AS OURS. WE SHOULD BE
ABLE TO COMMUNICATE
WITH THEM.

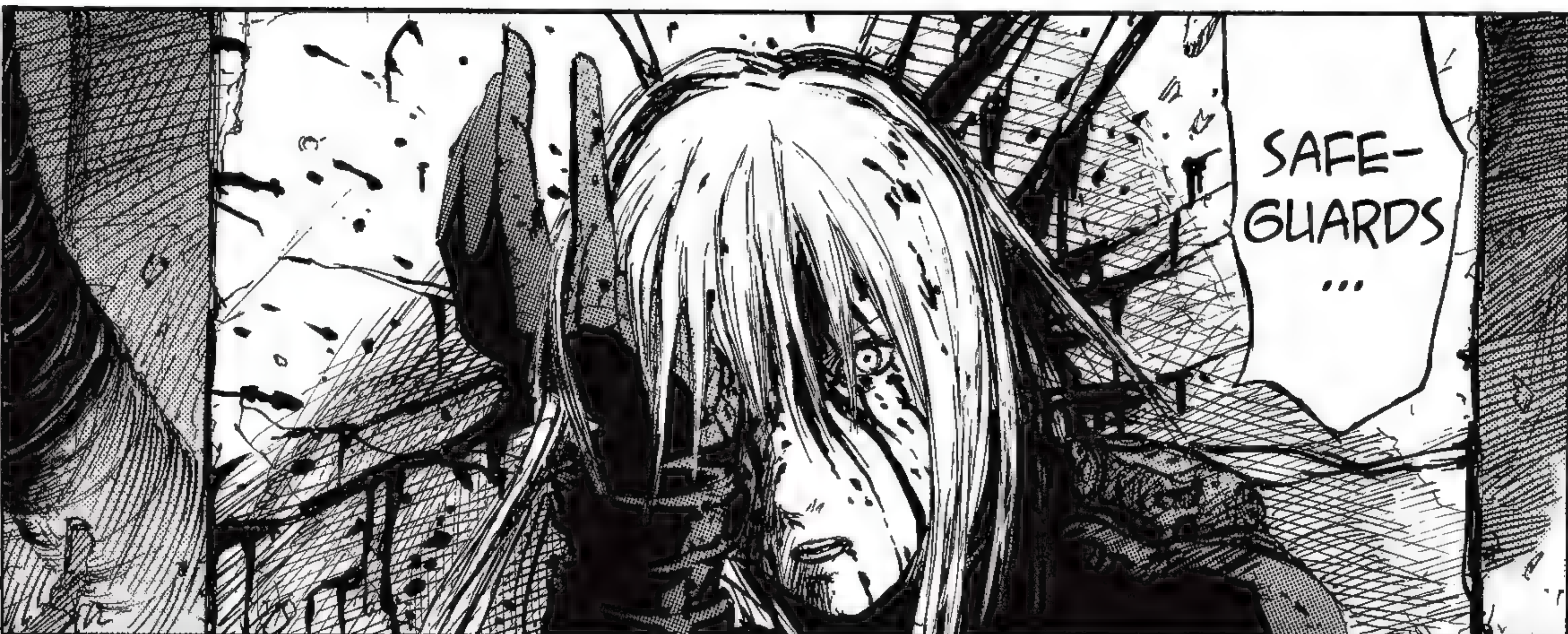
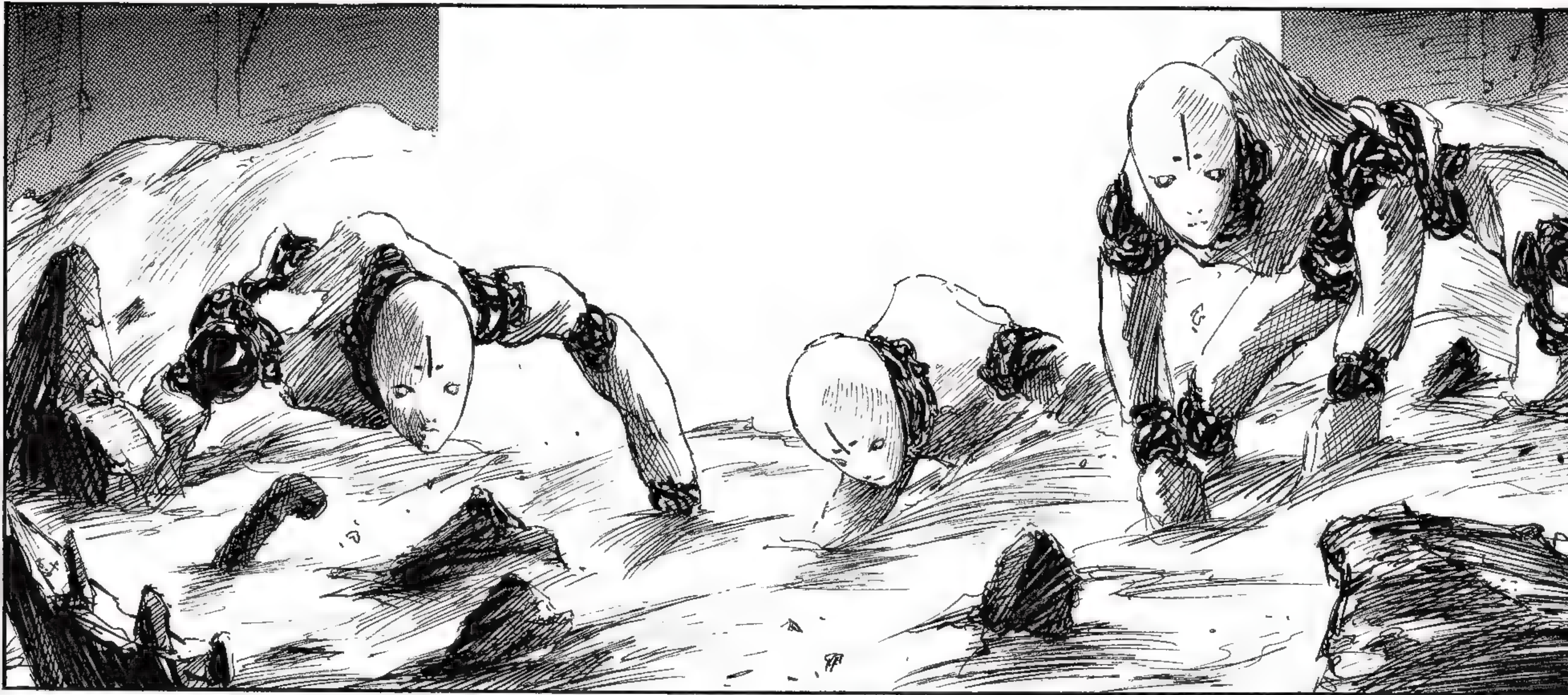
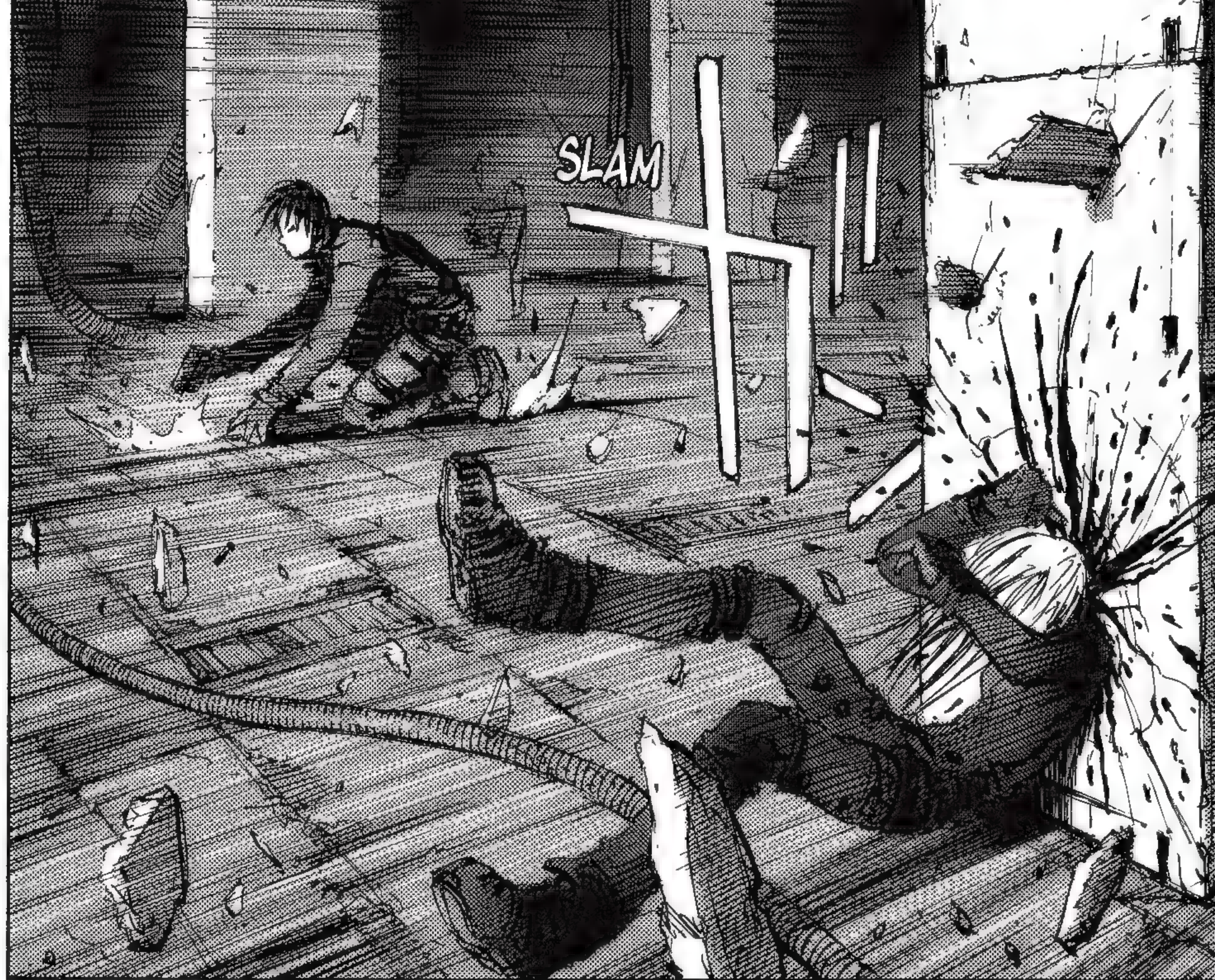


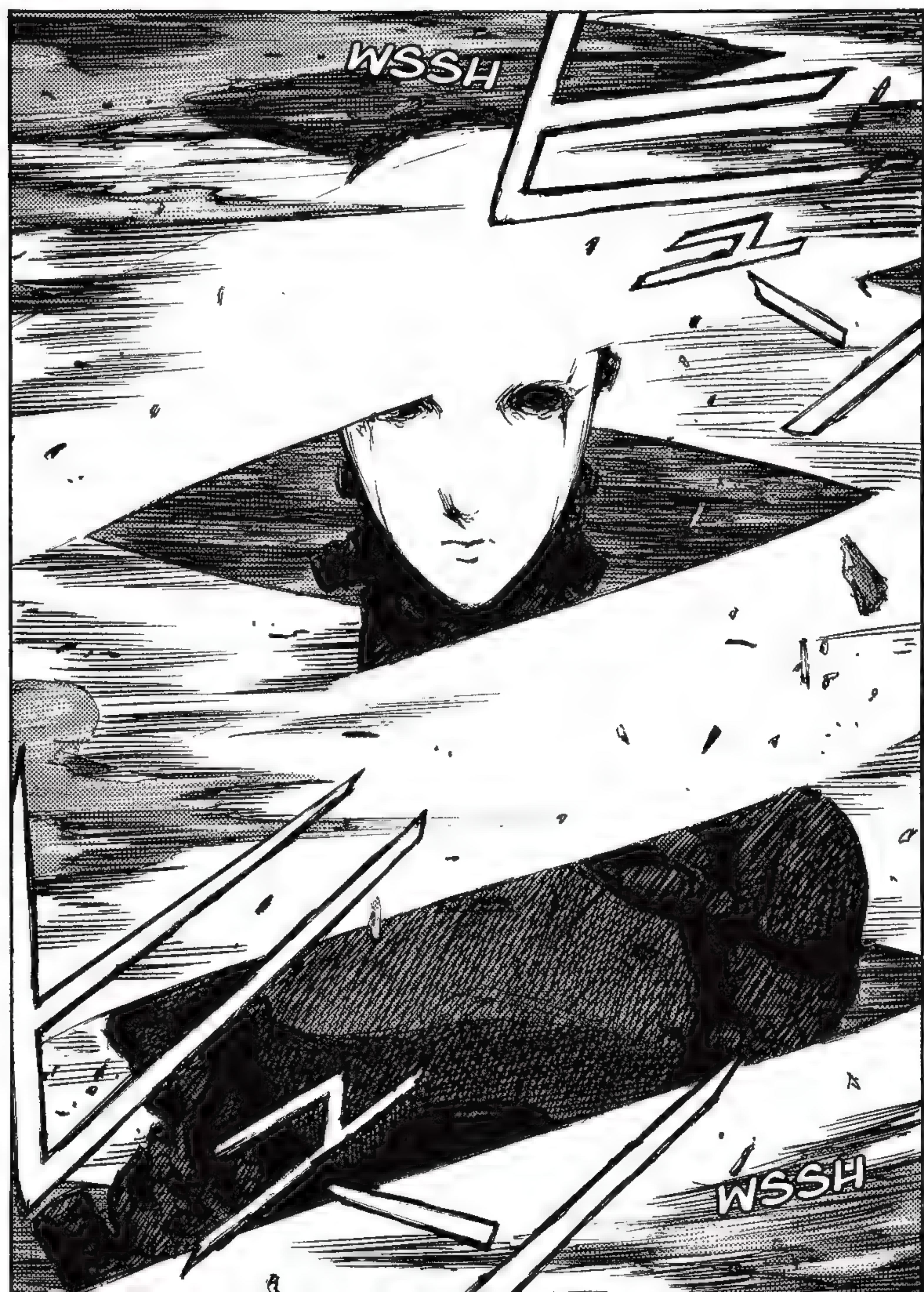


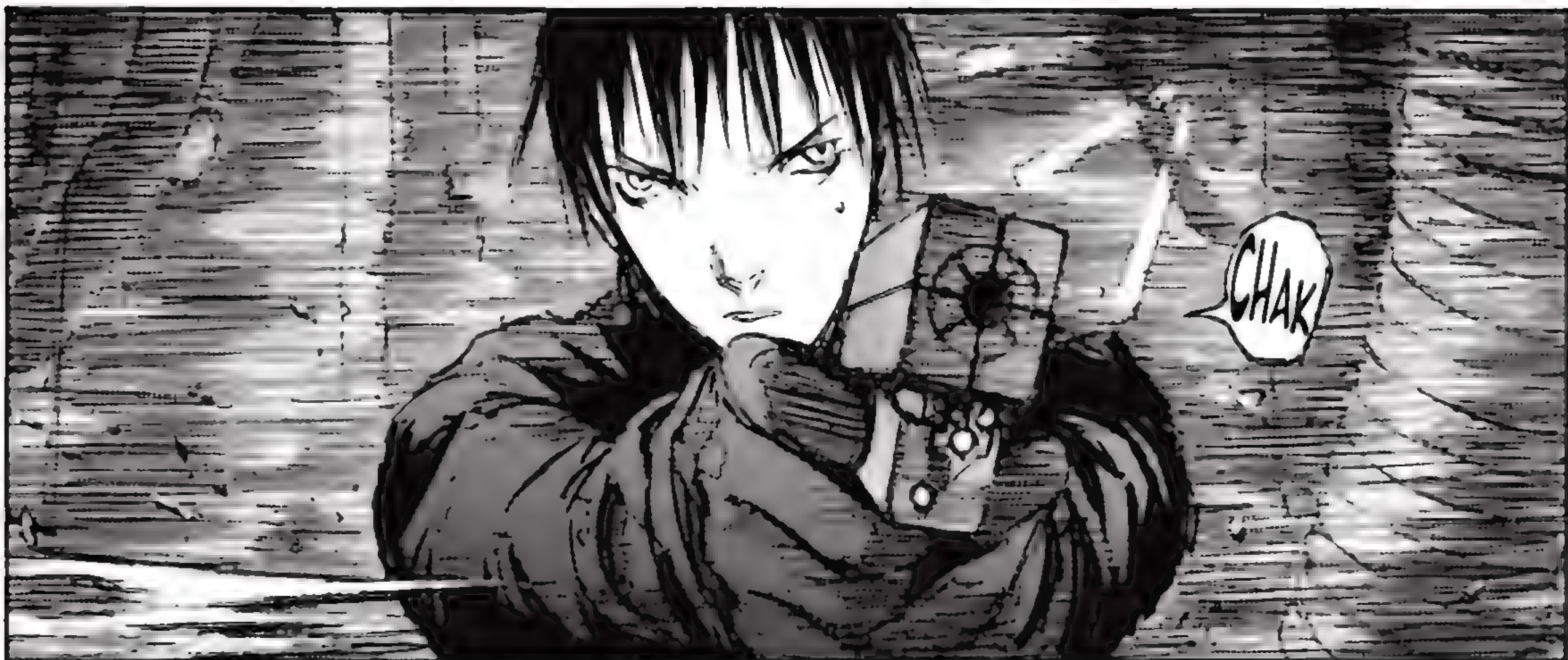


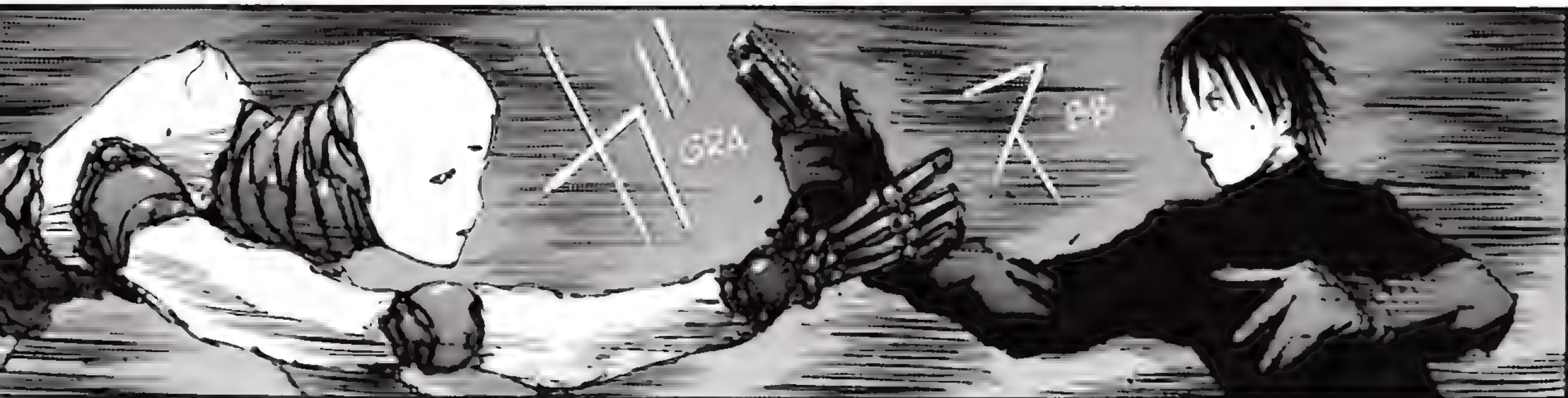
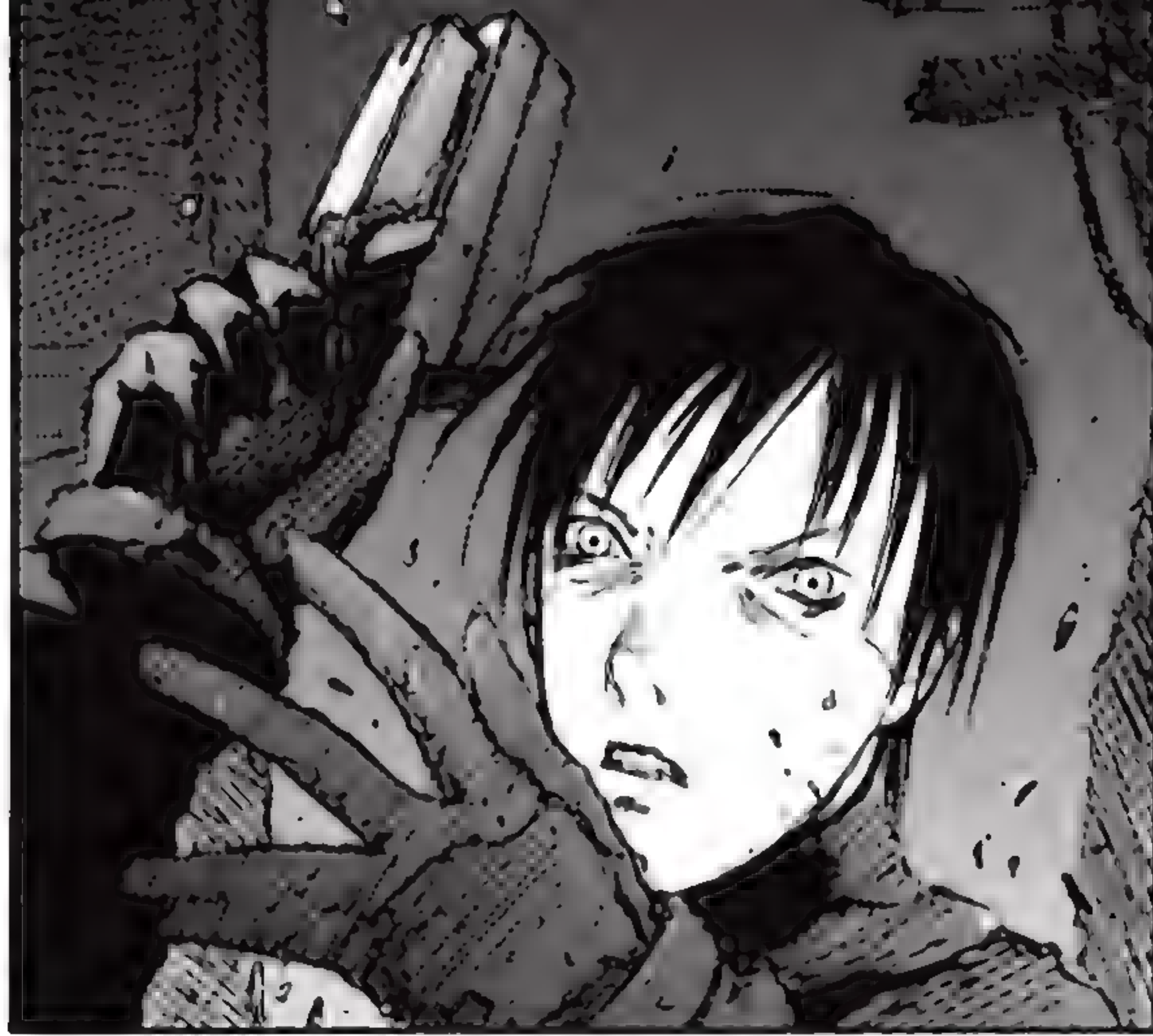
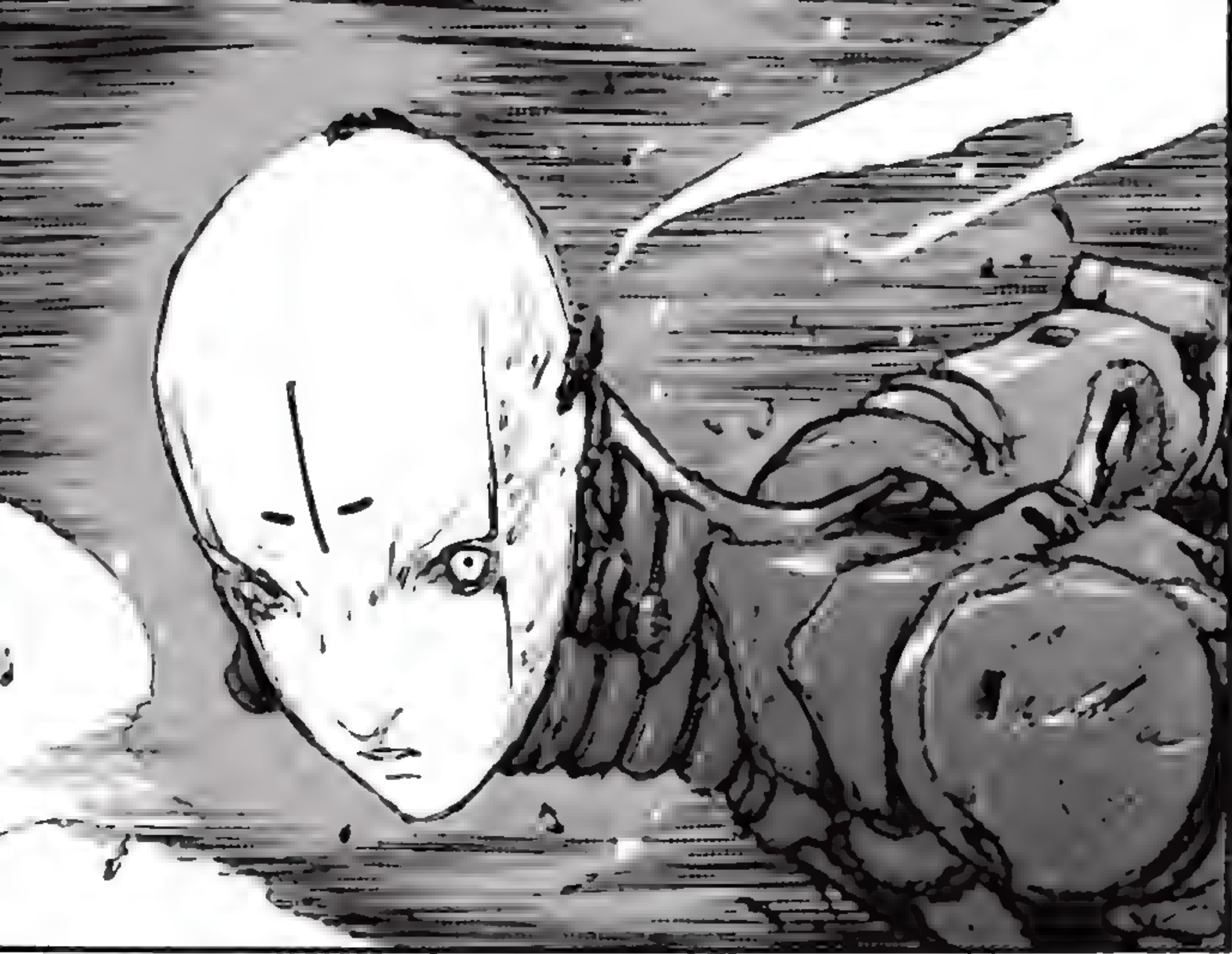


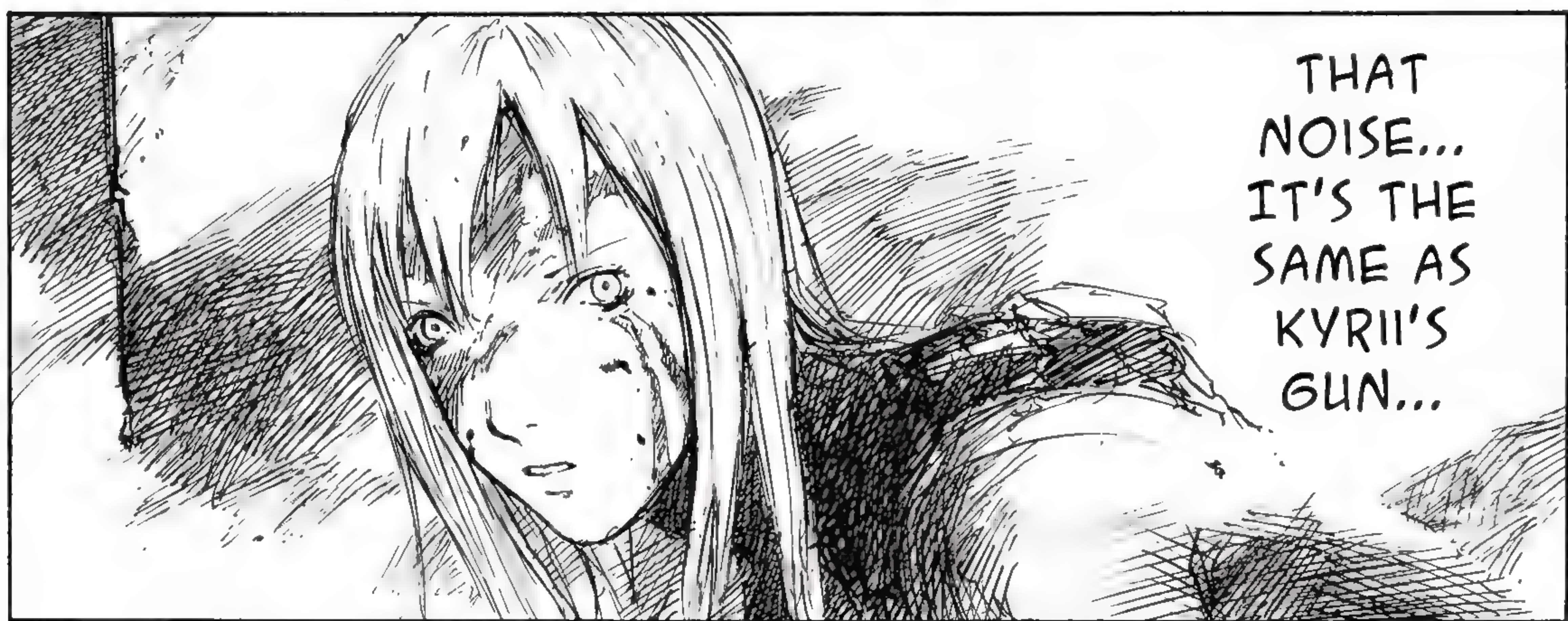
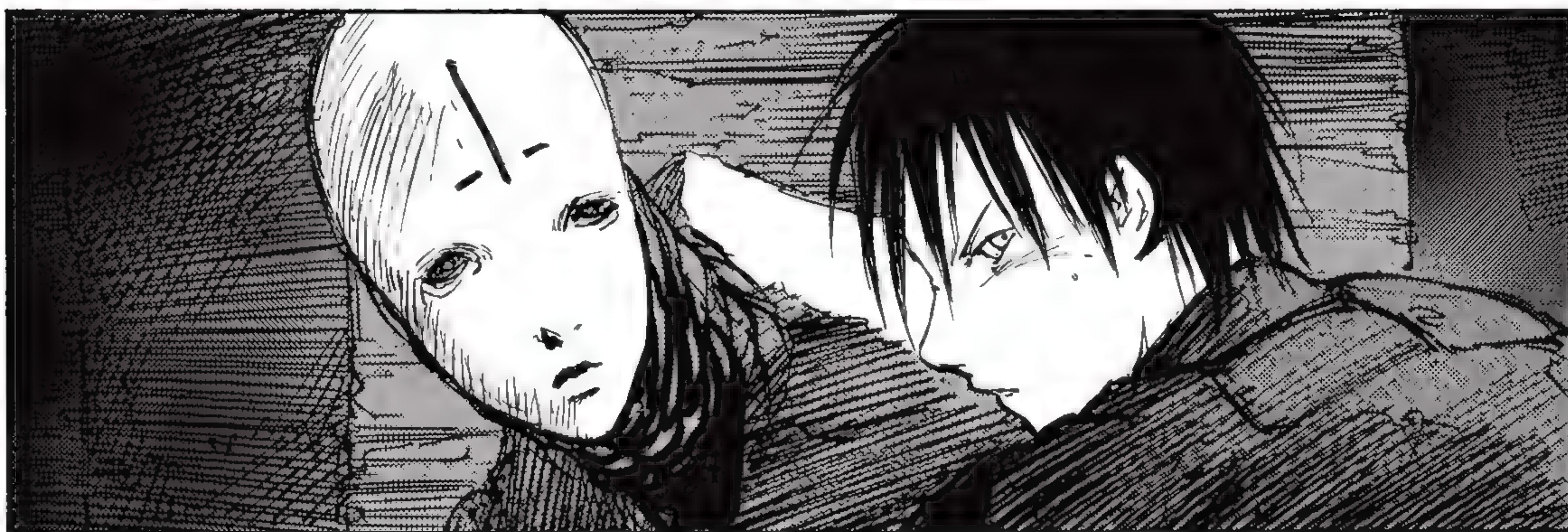
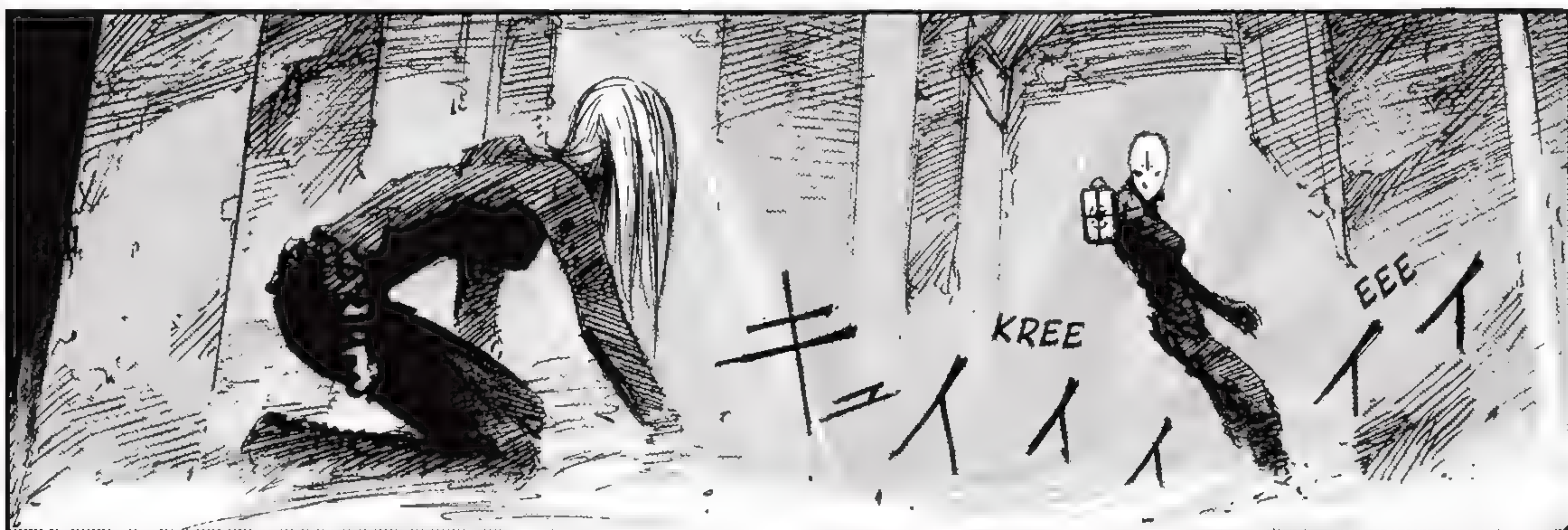
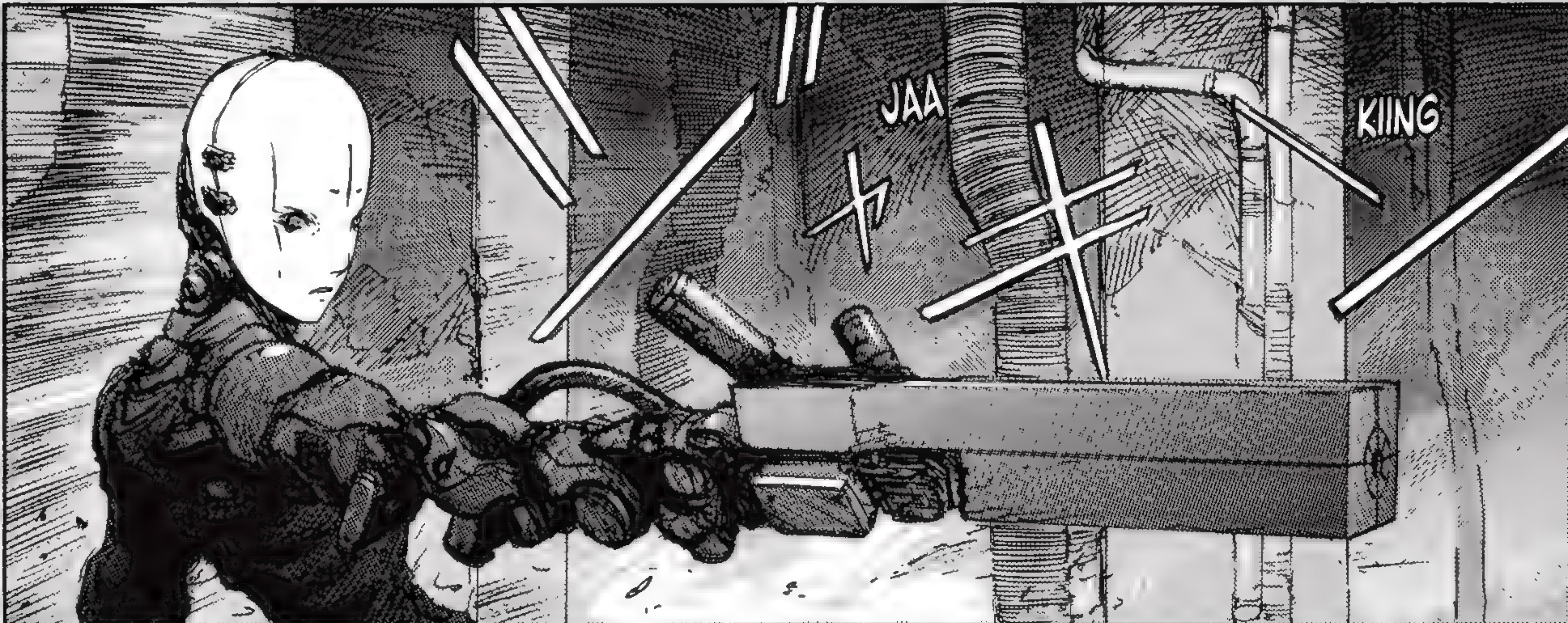


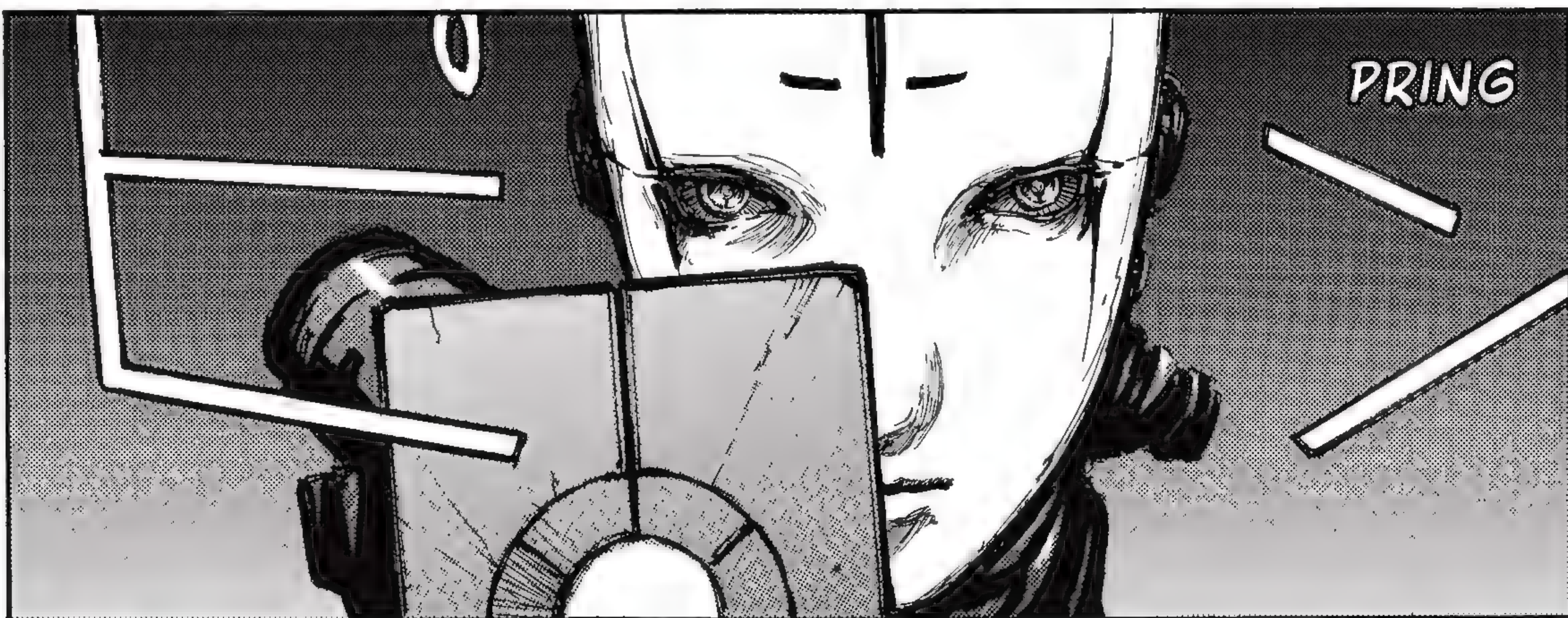


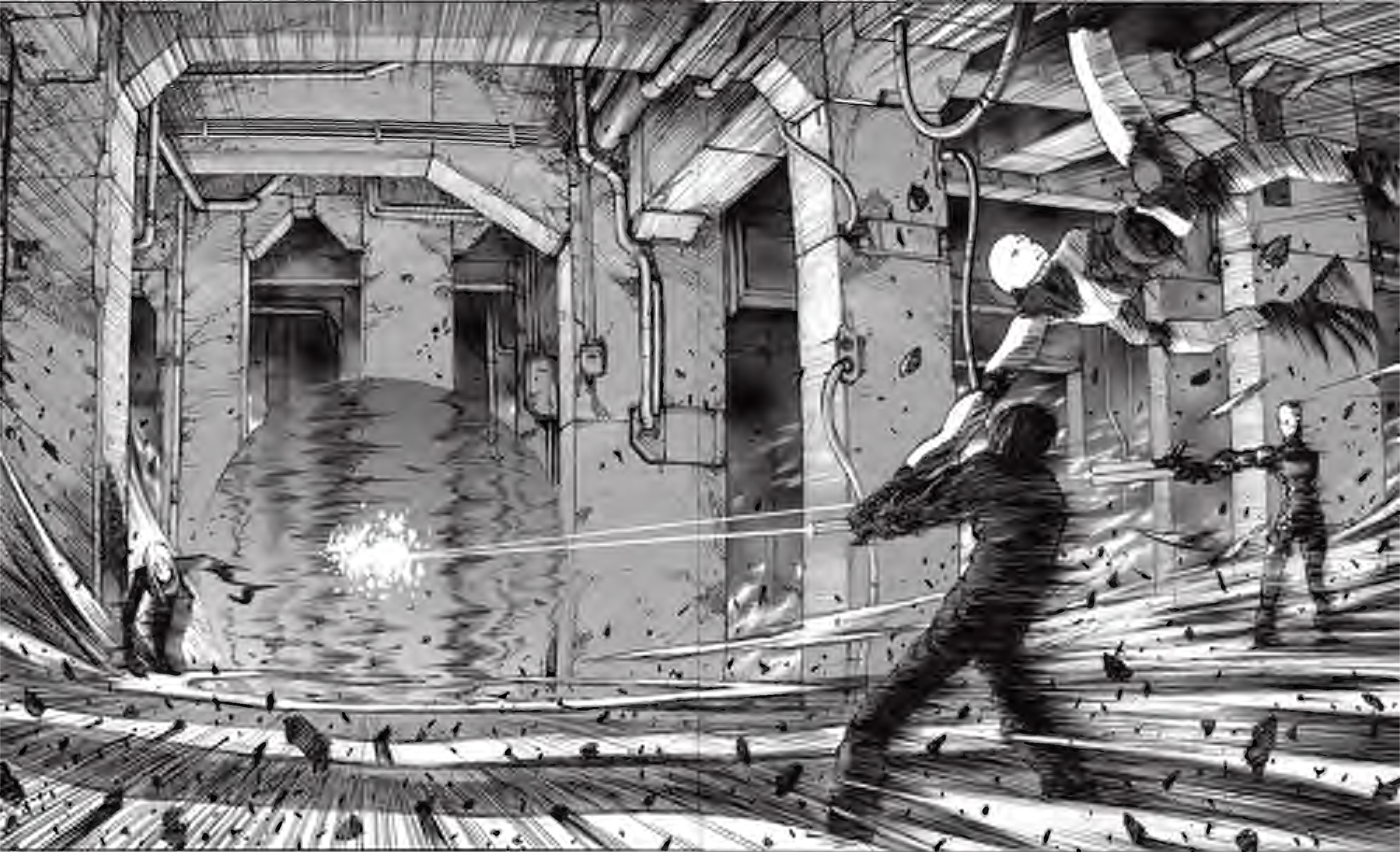


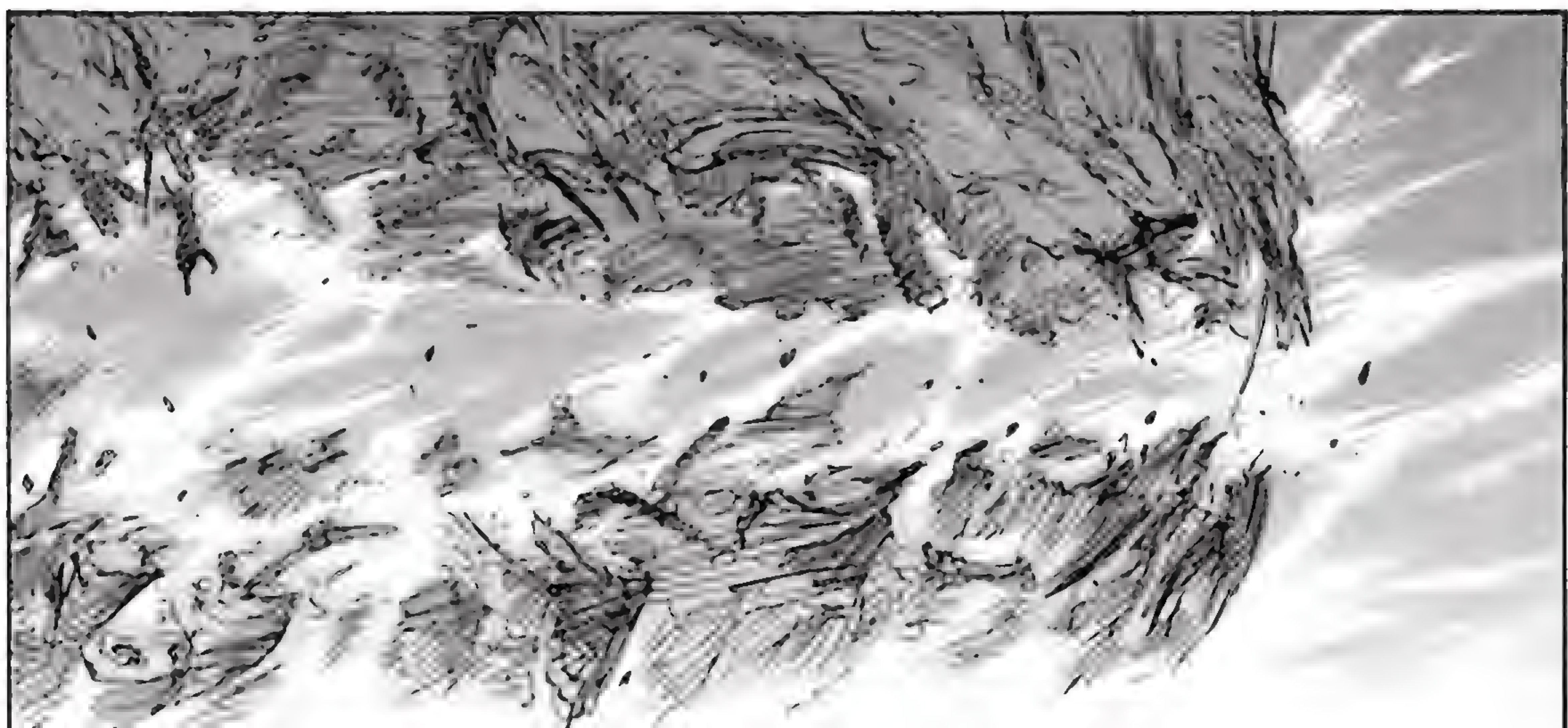
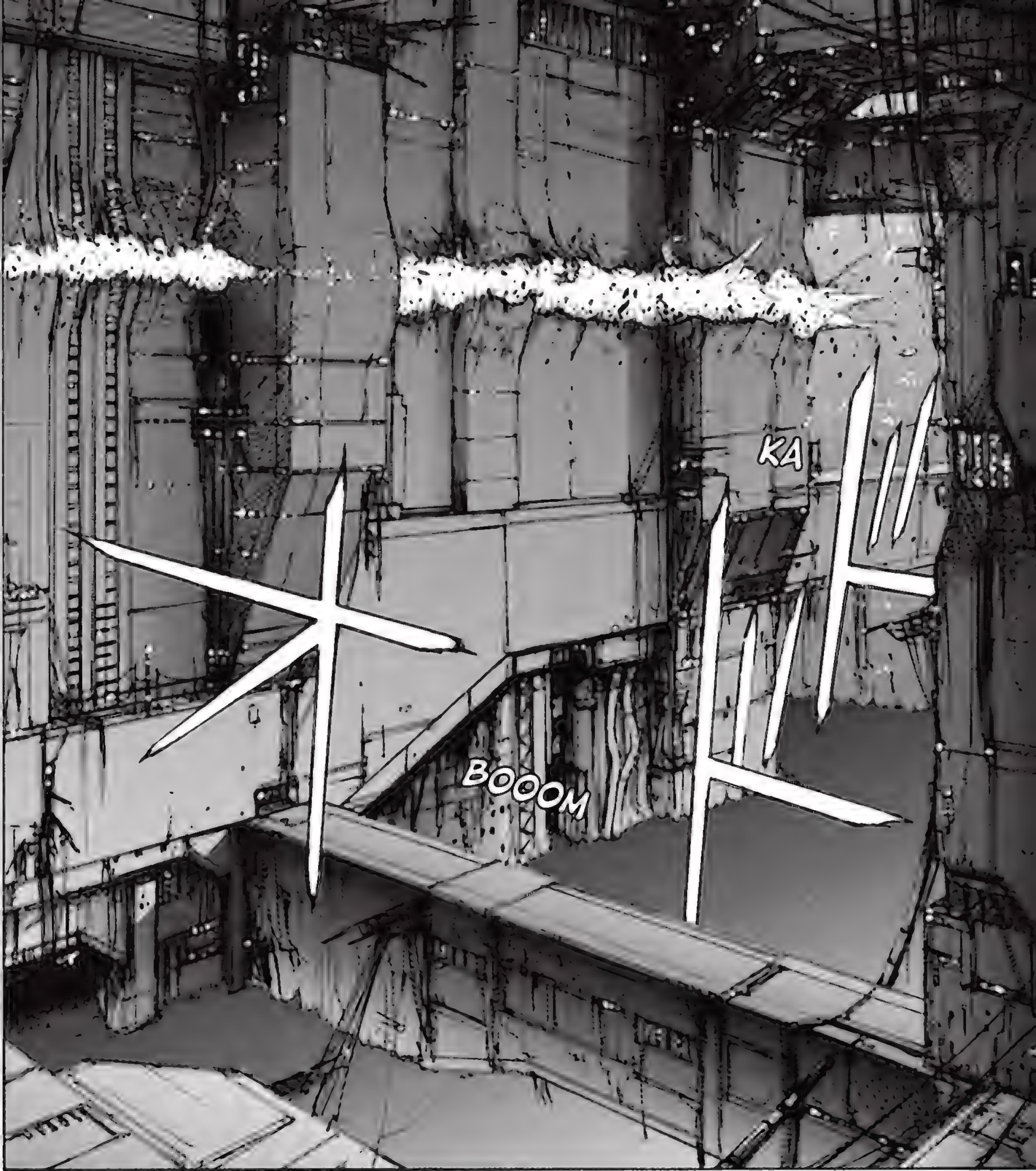


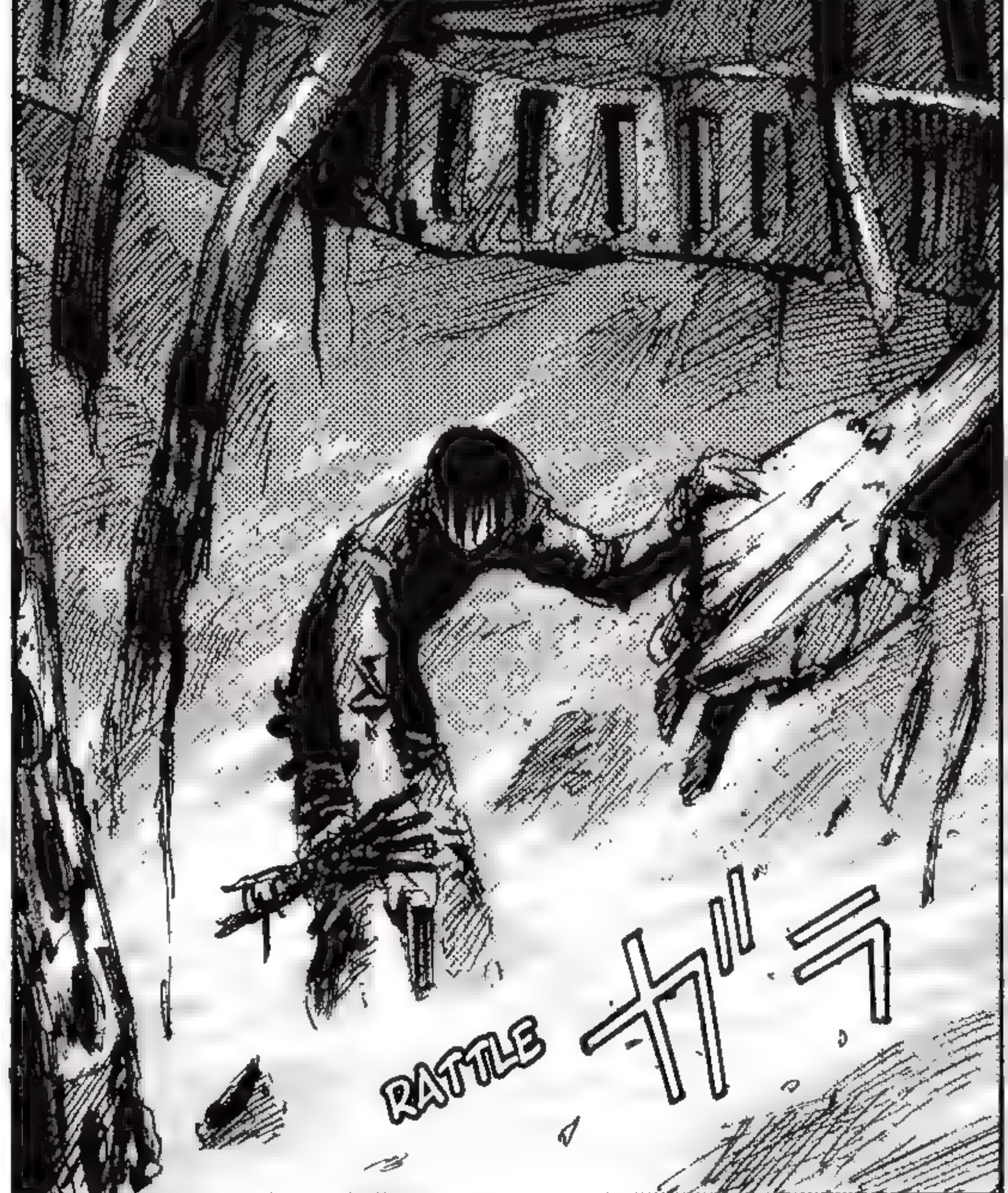




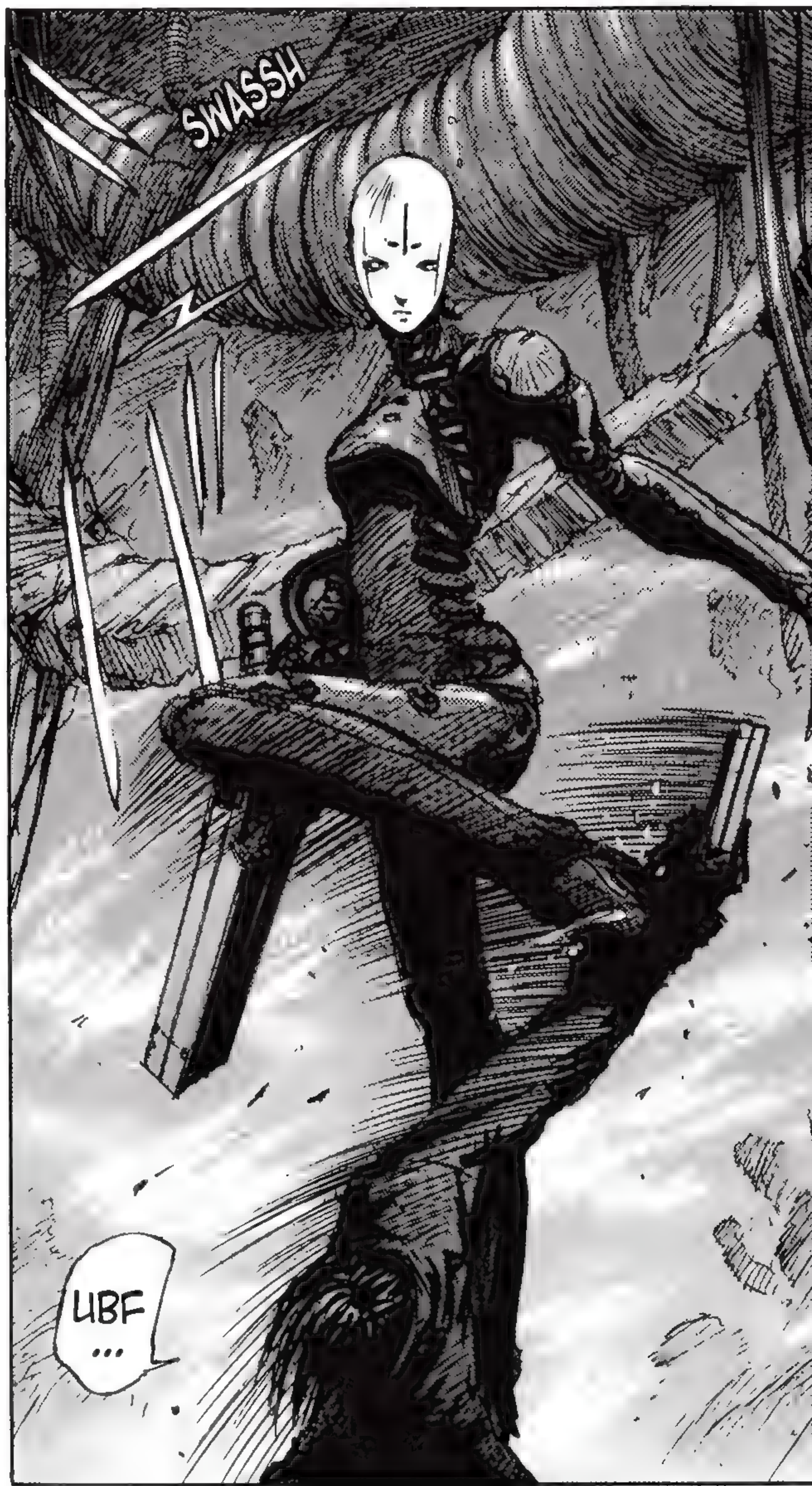
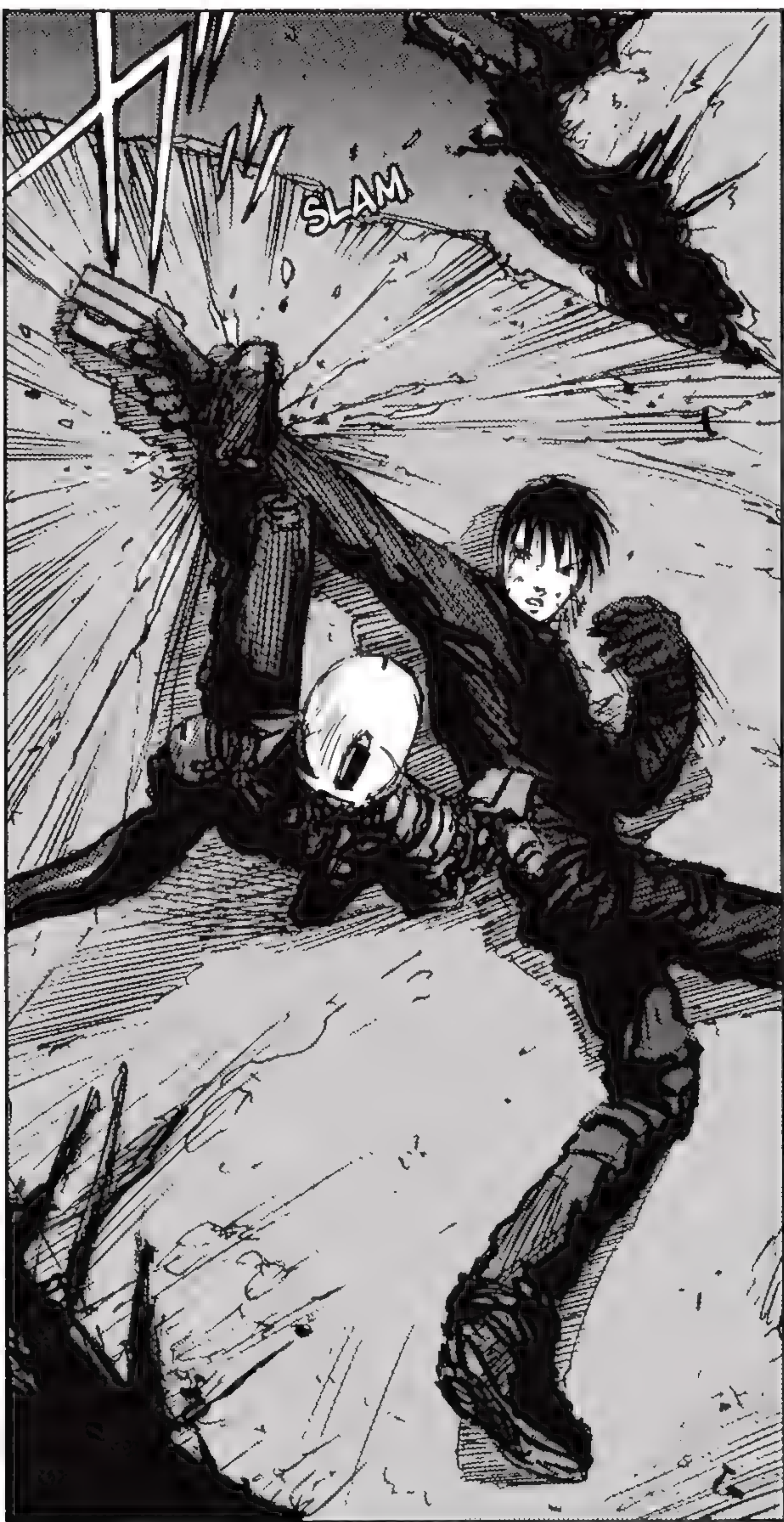
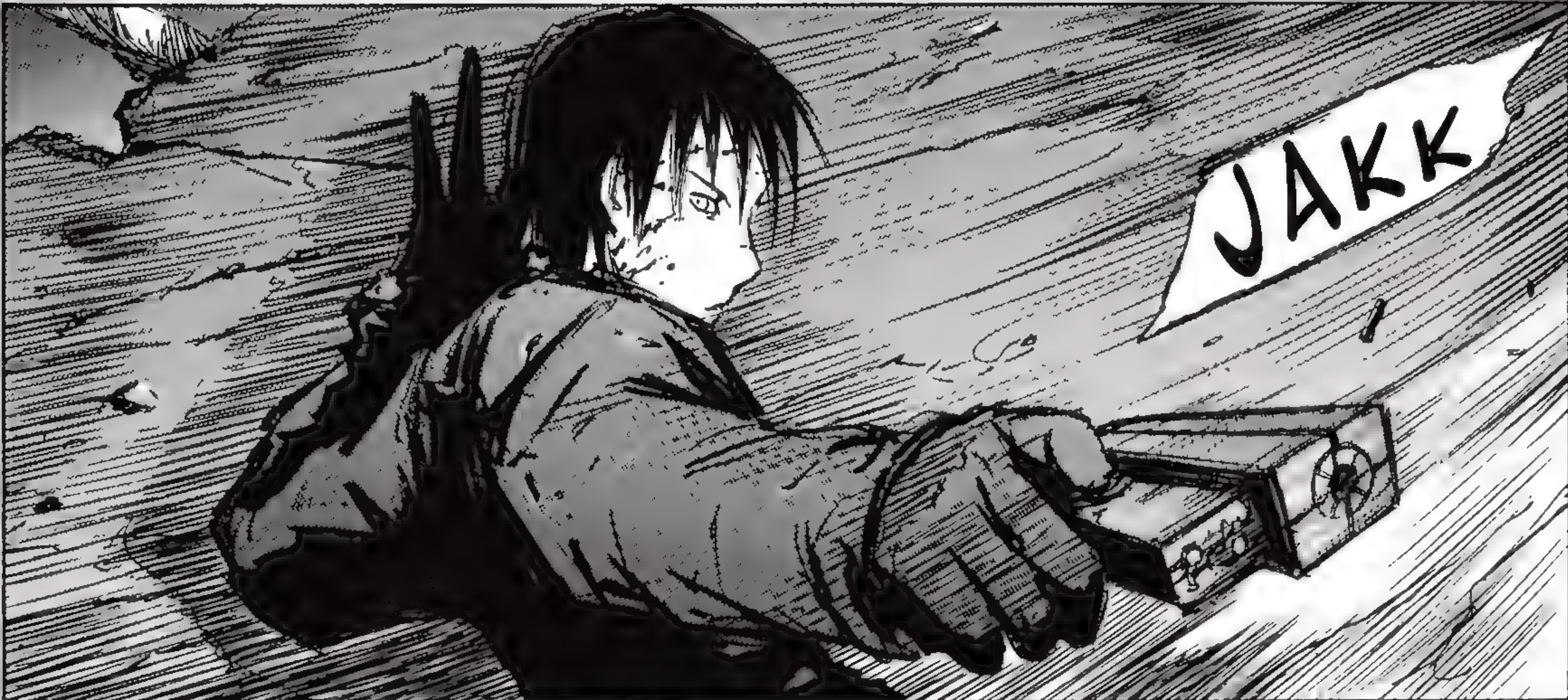


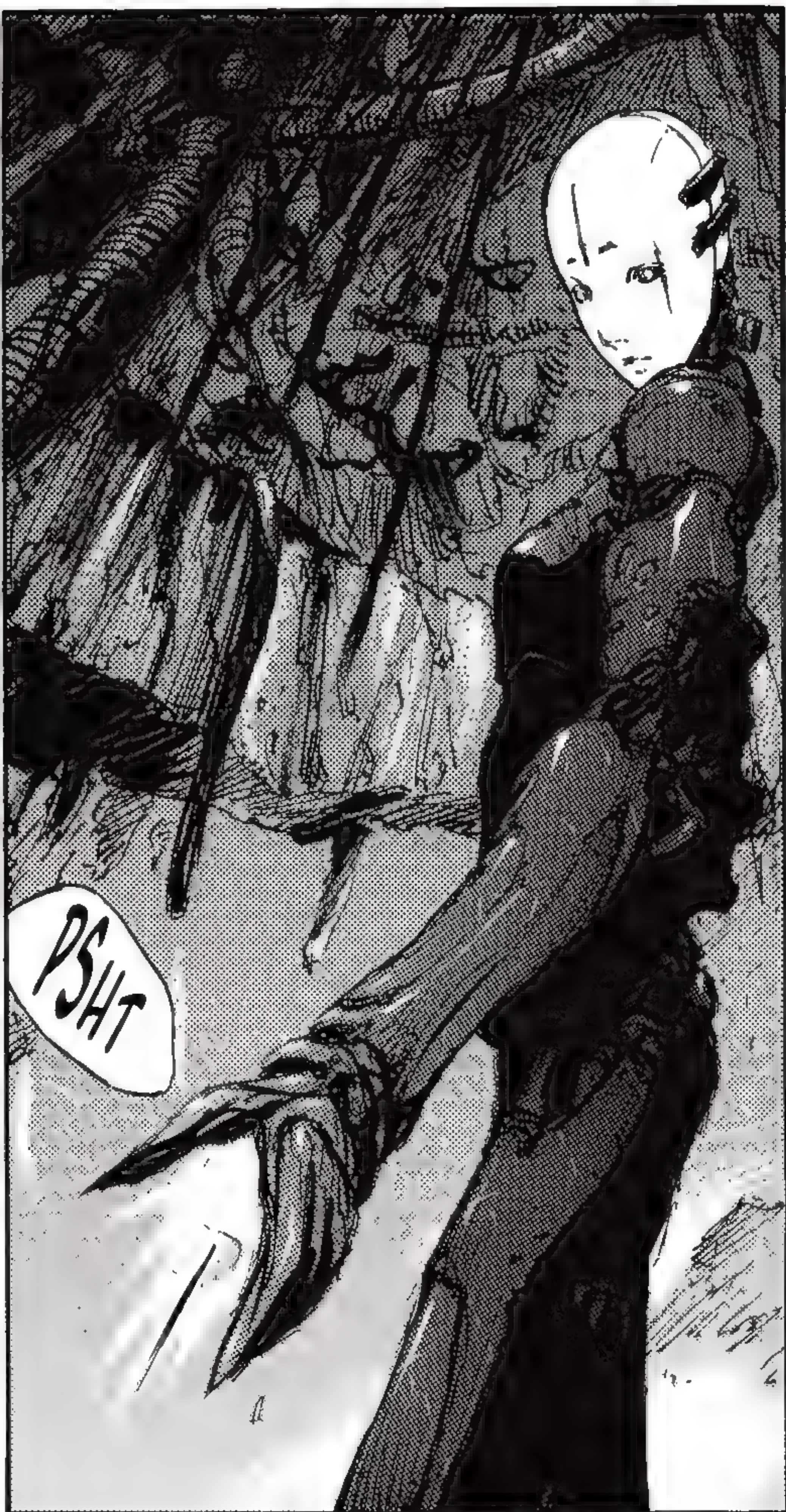


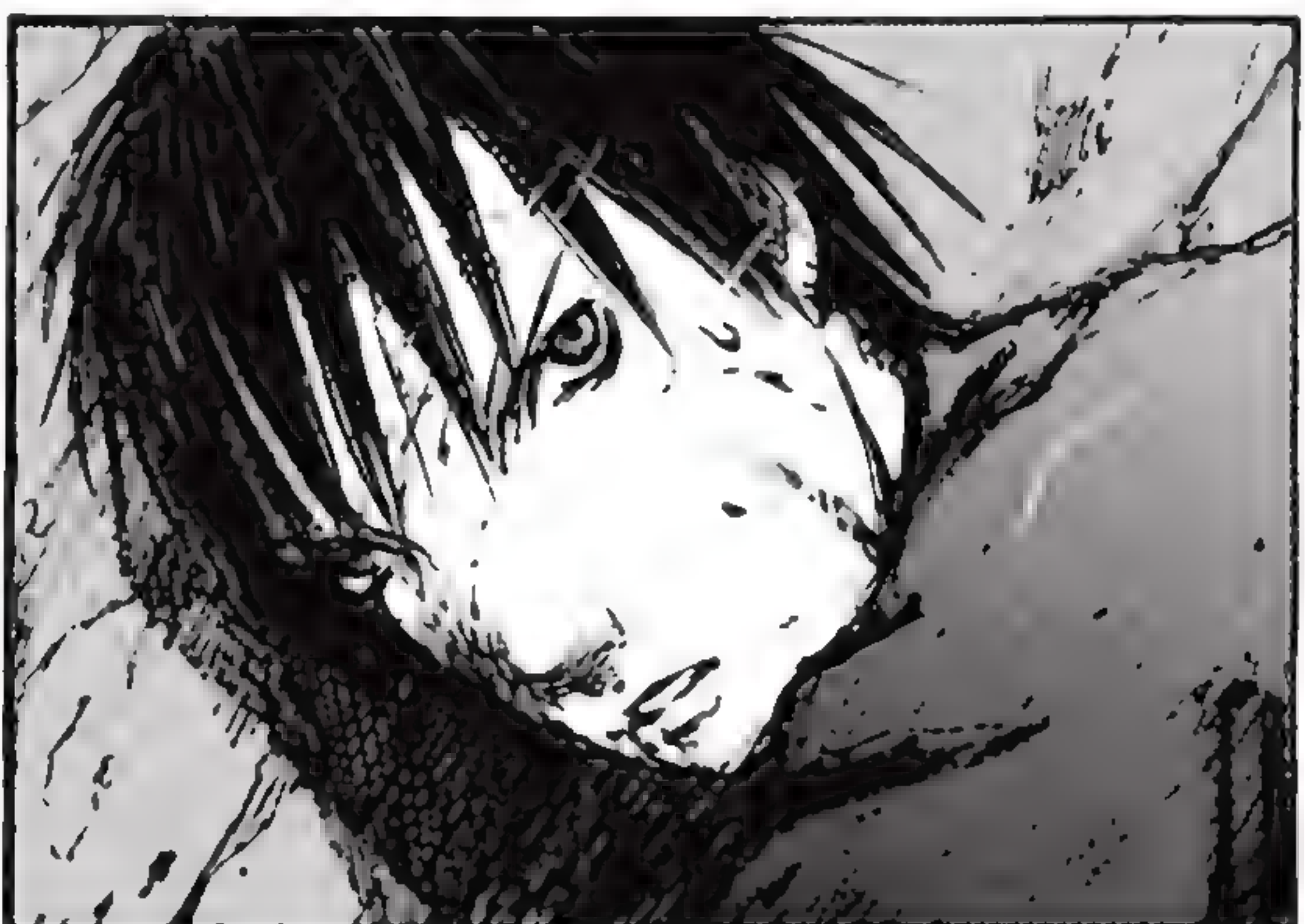


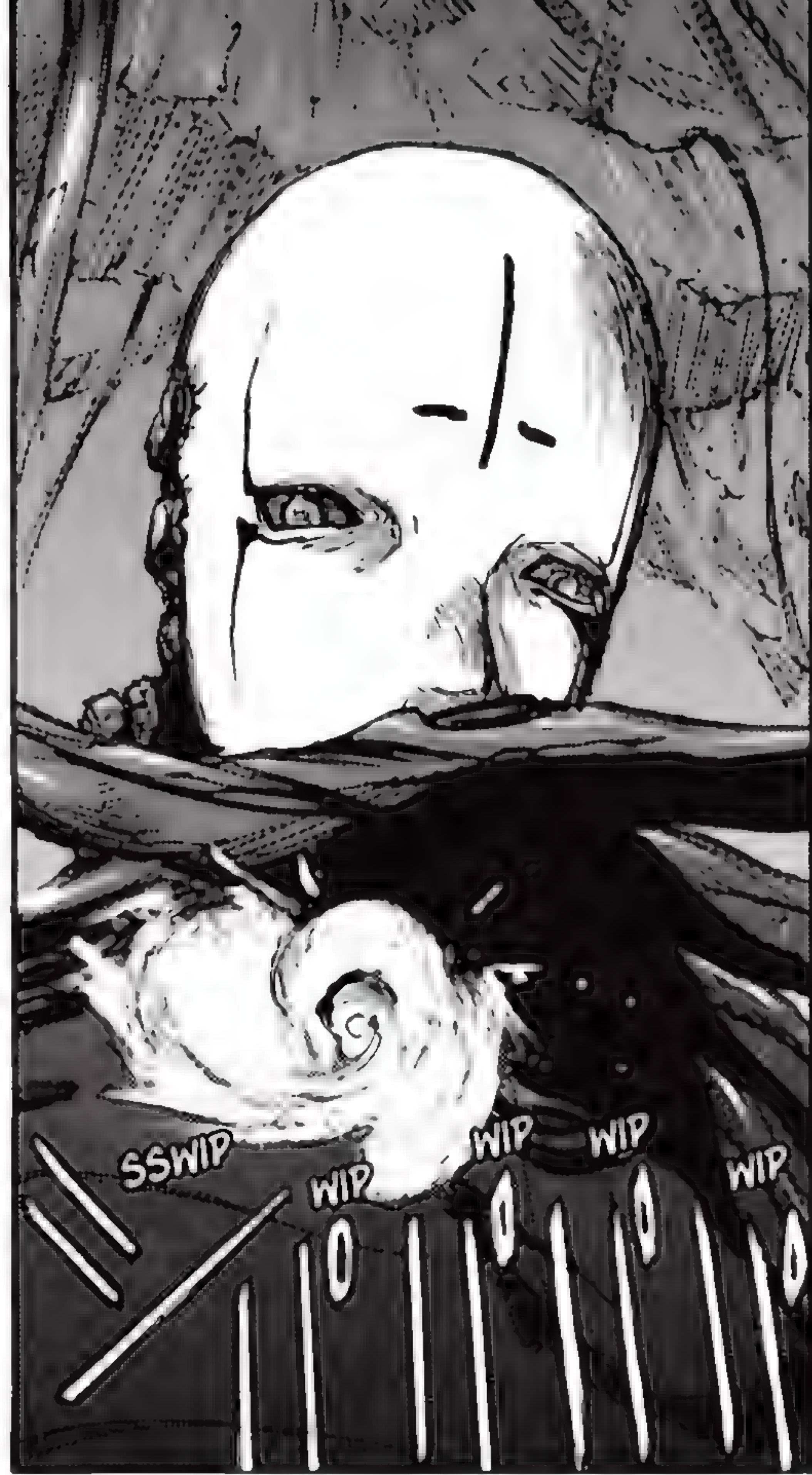
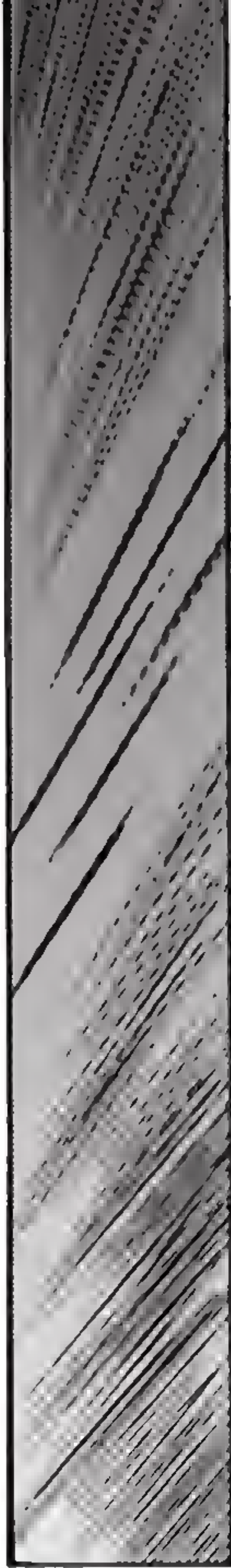


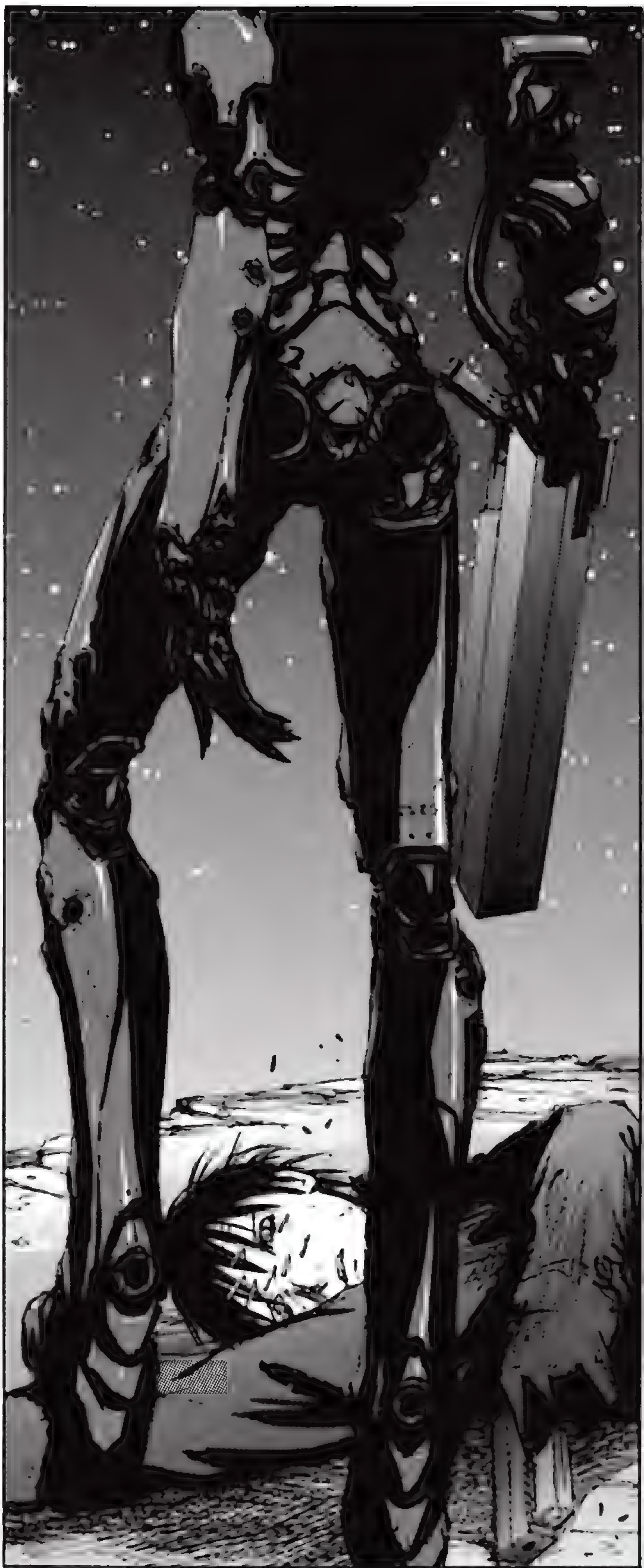




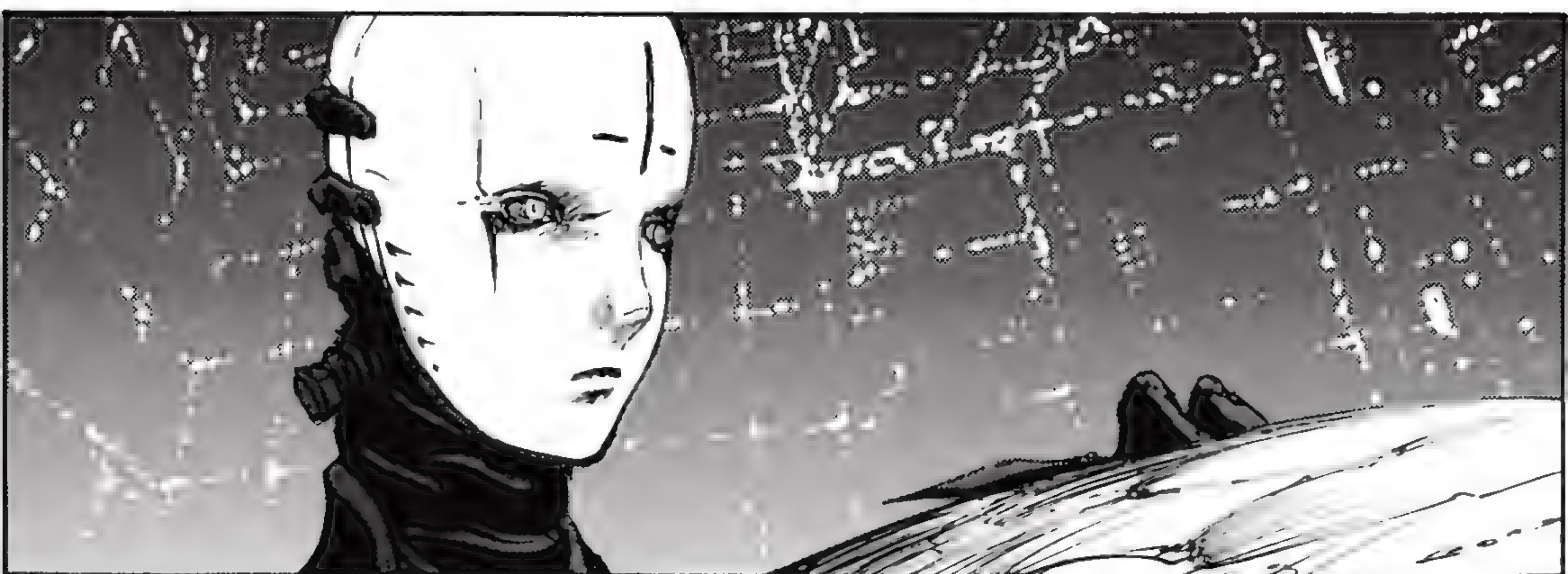
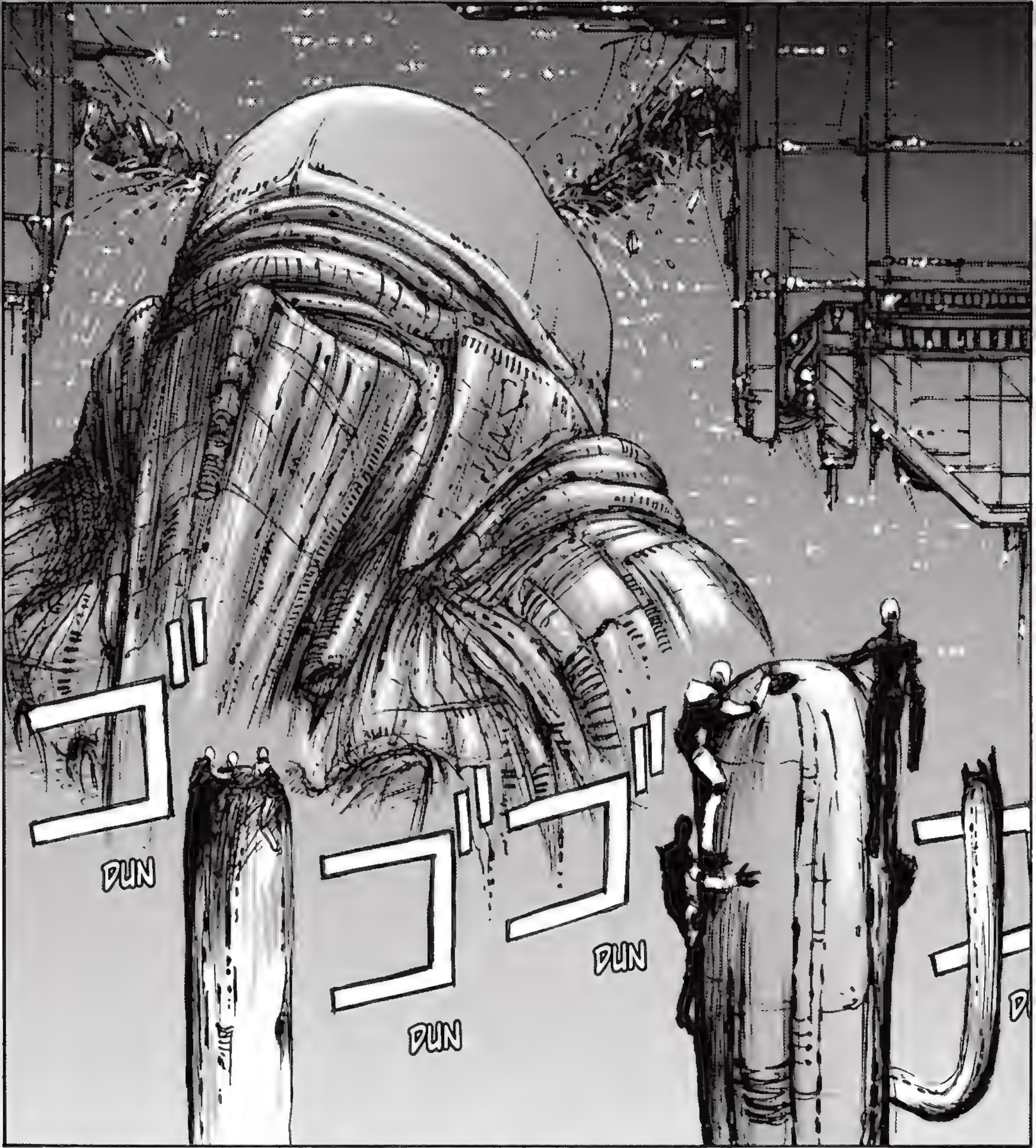




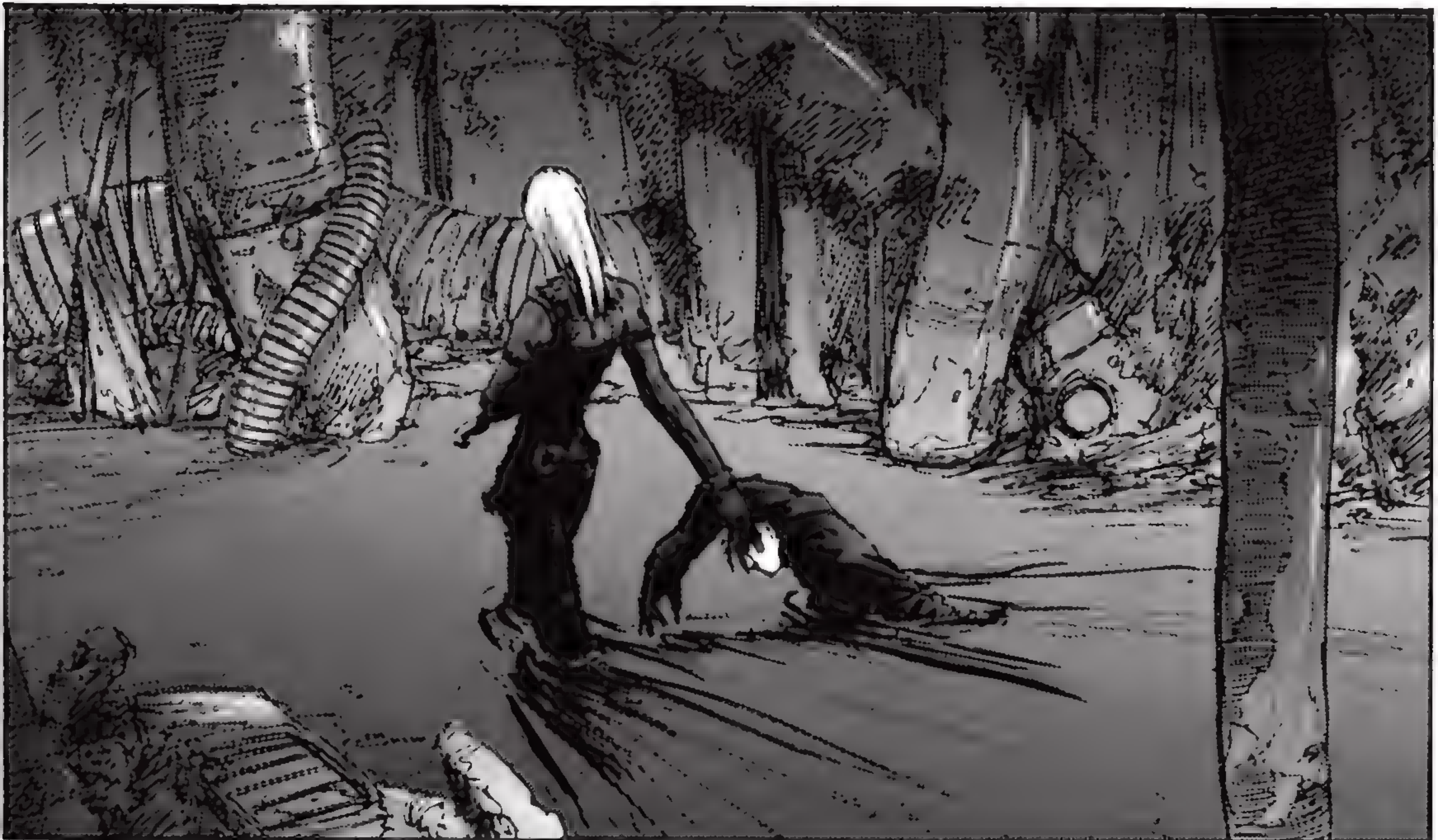


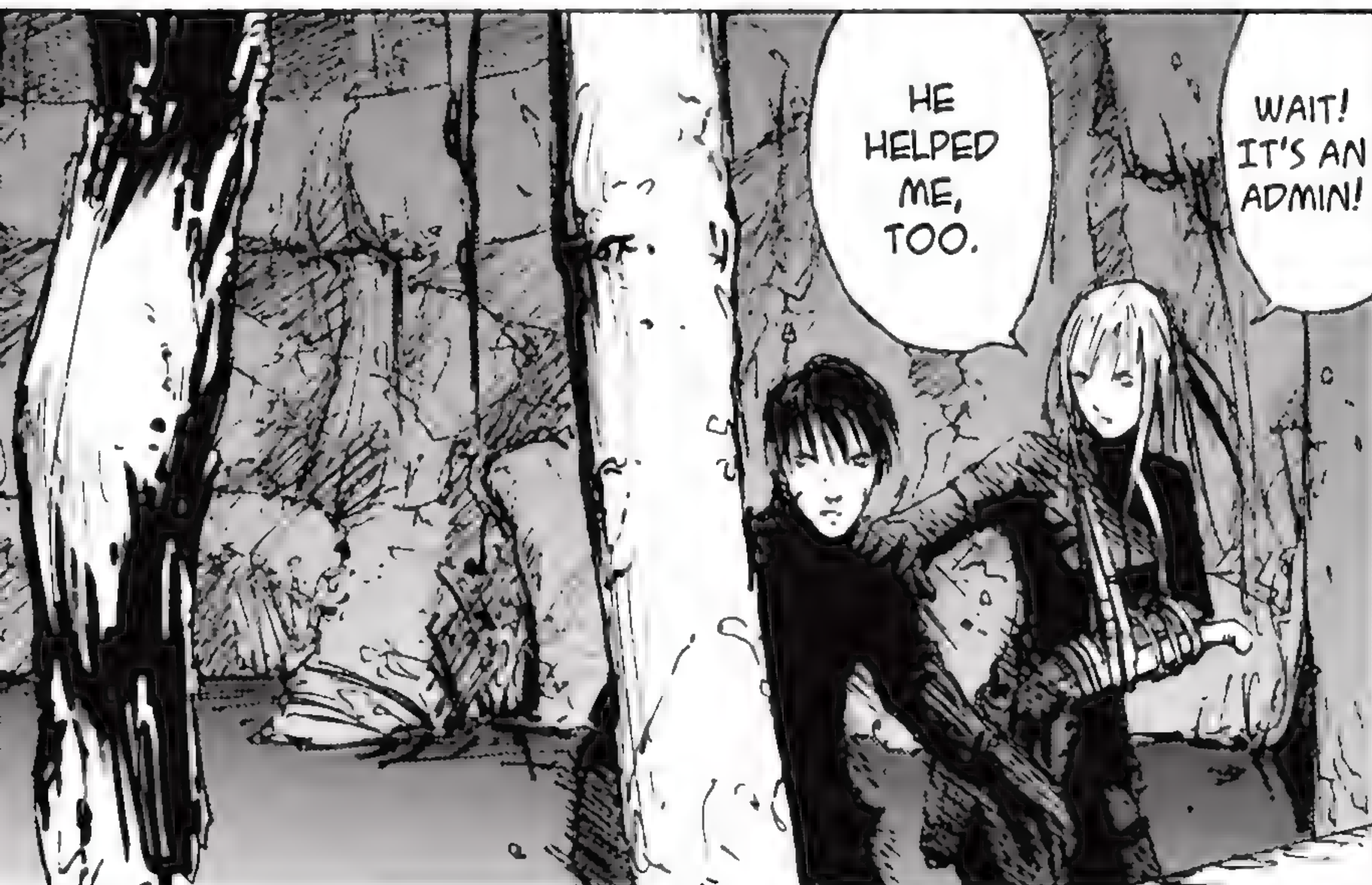
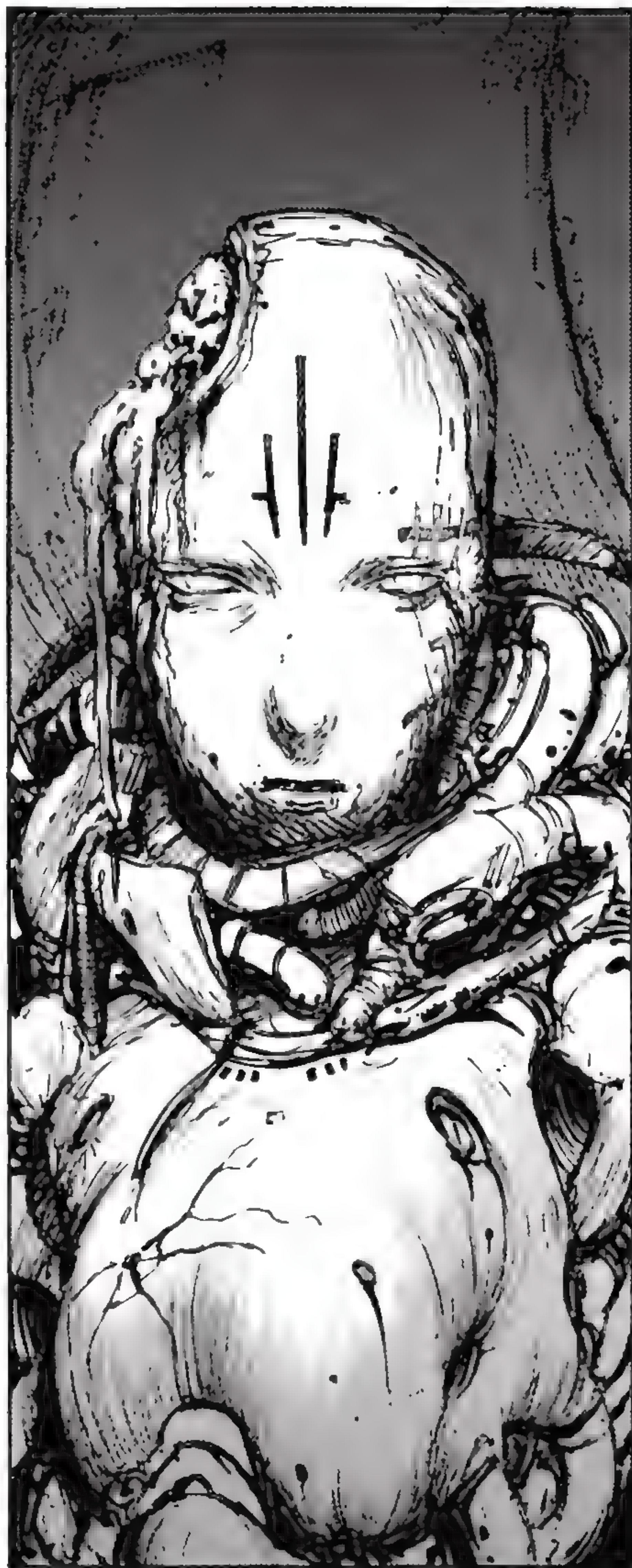
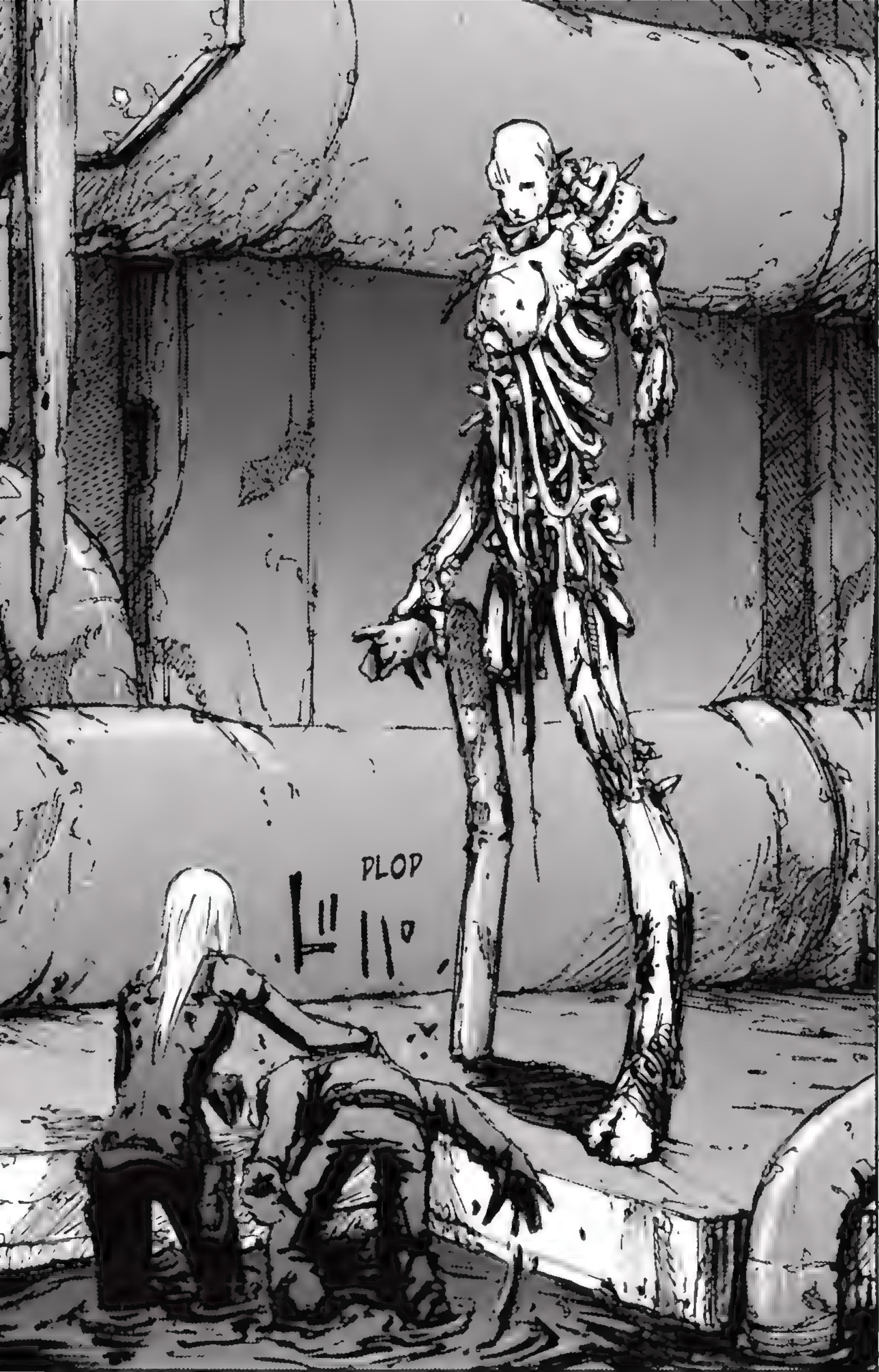


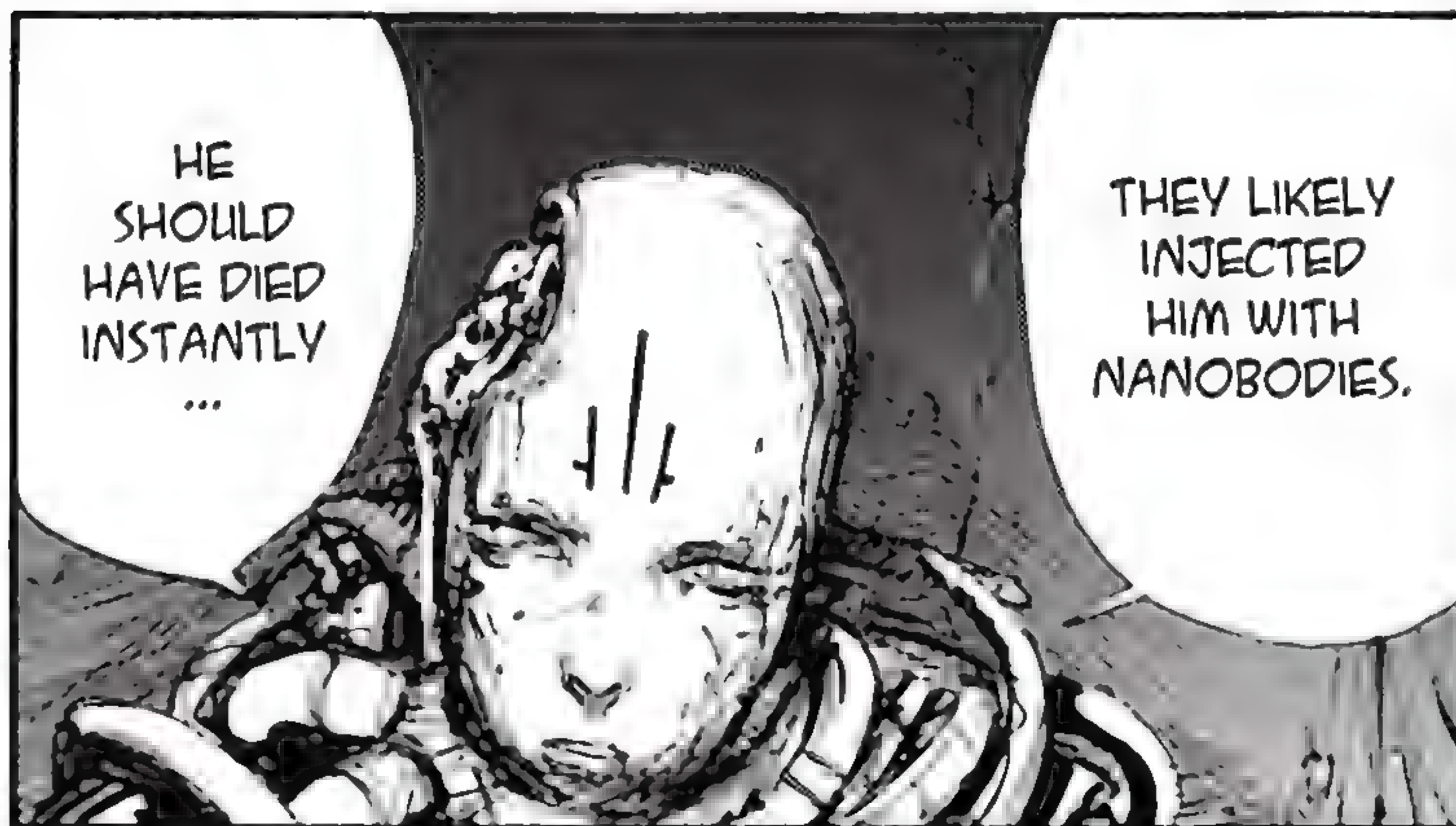
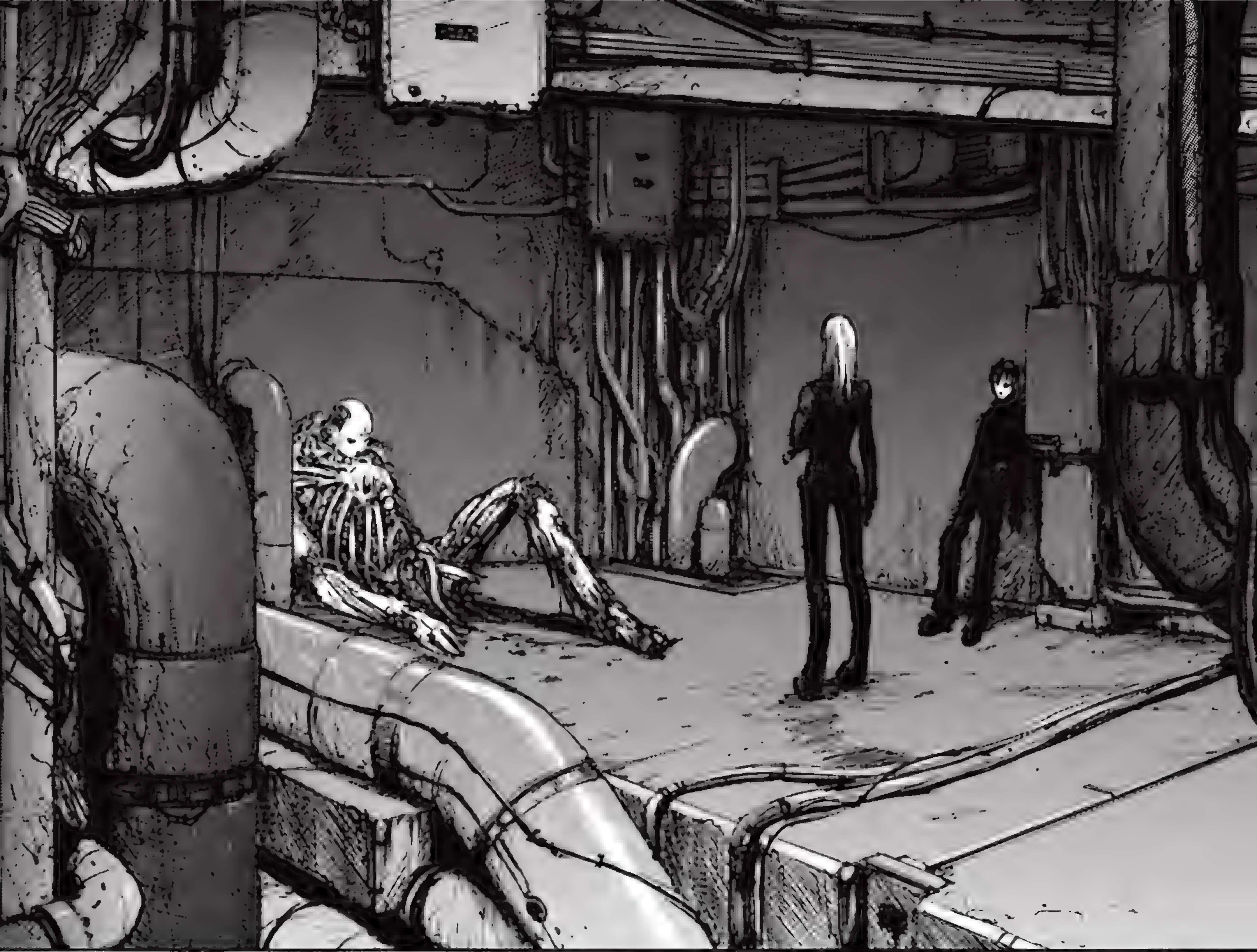










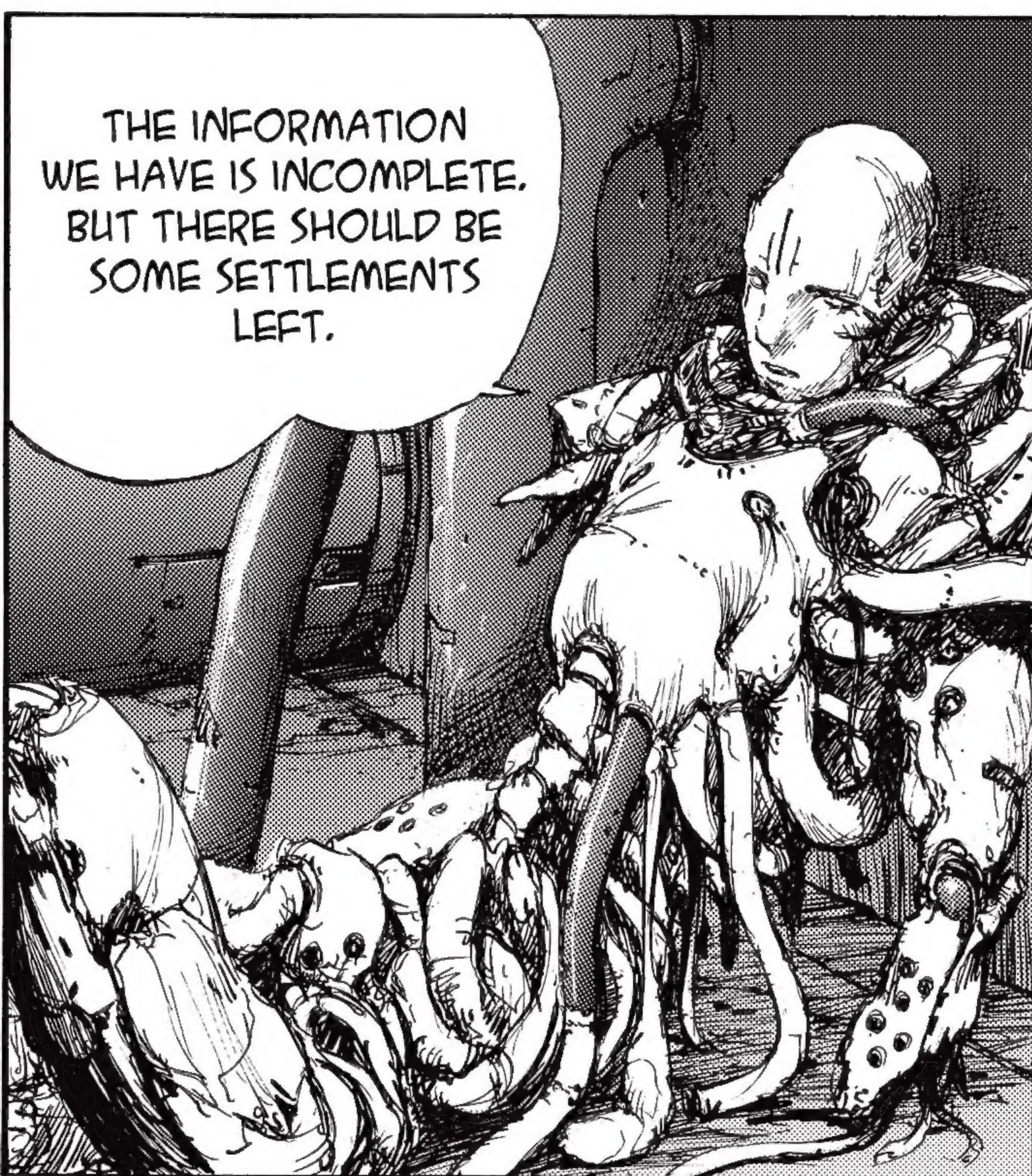




WHEENE
WHEENE



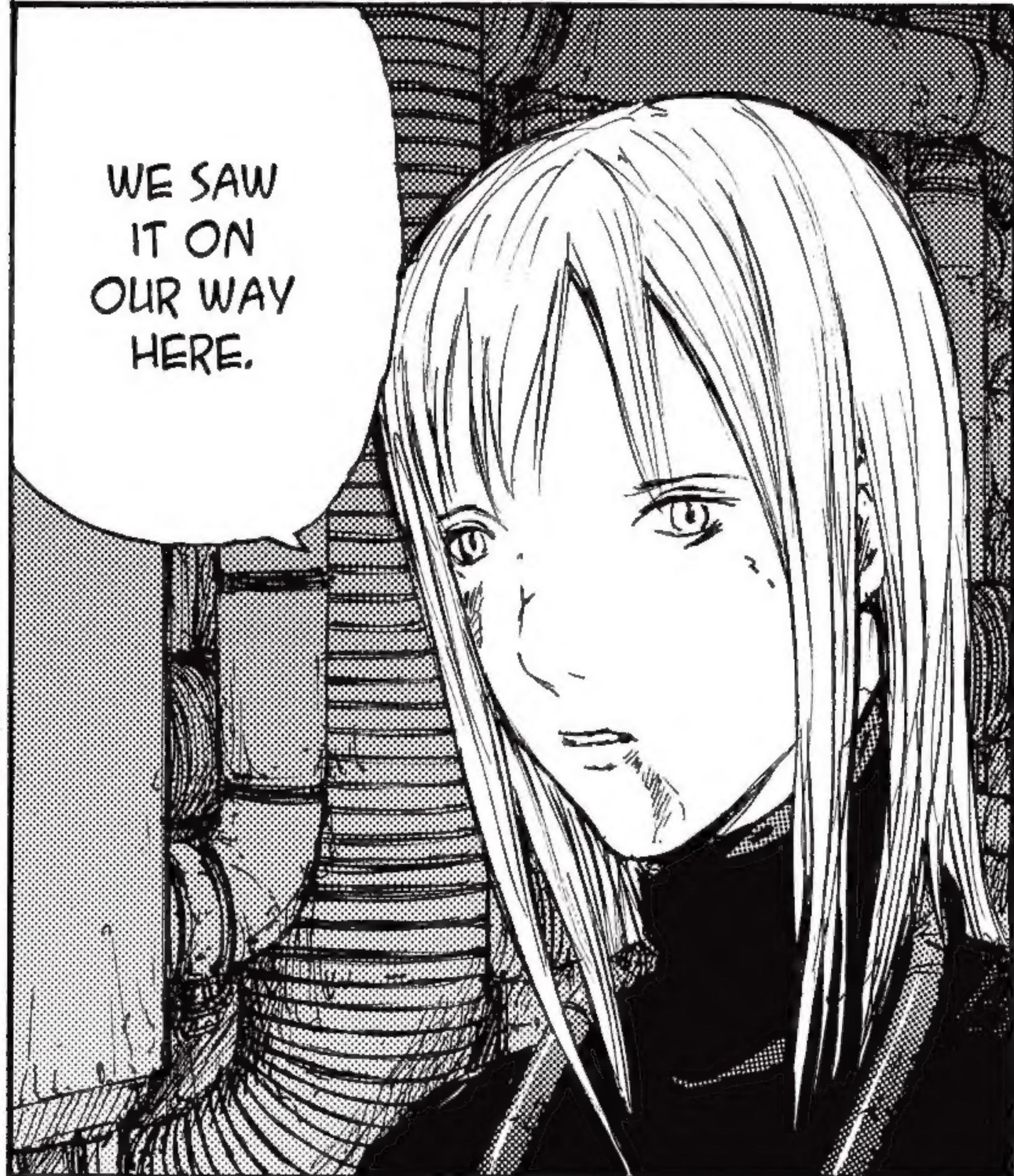
THOSE
SAFEGUARDS
HAD A
GRAVITON
BEAM
EMITTER,
DIDN'T
THEY?



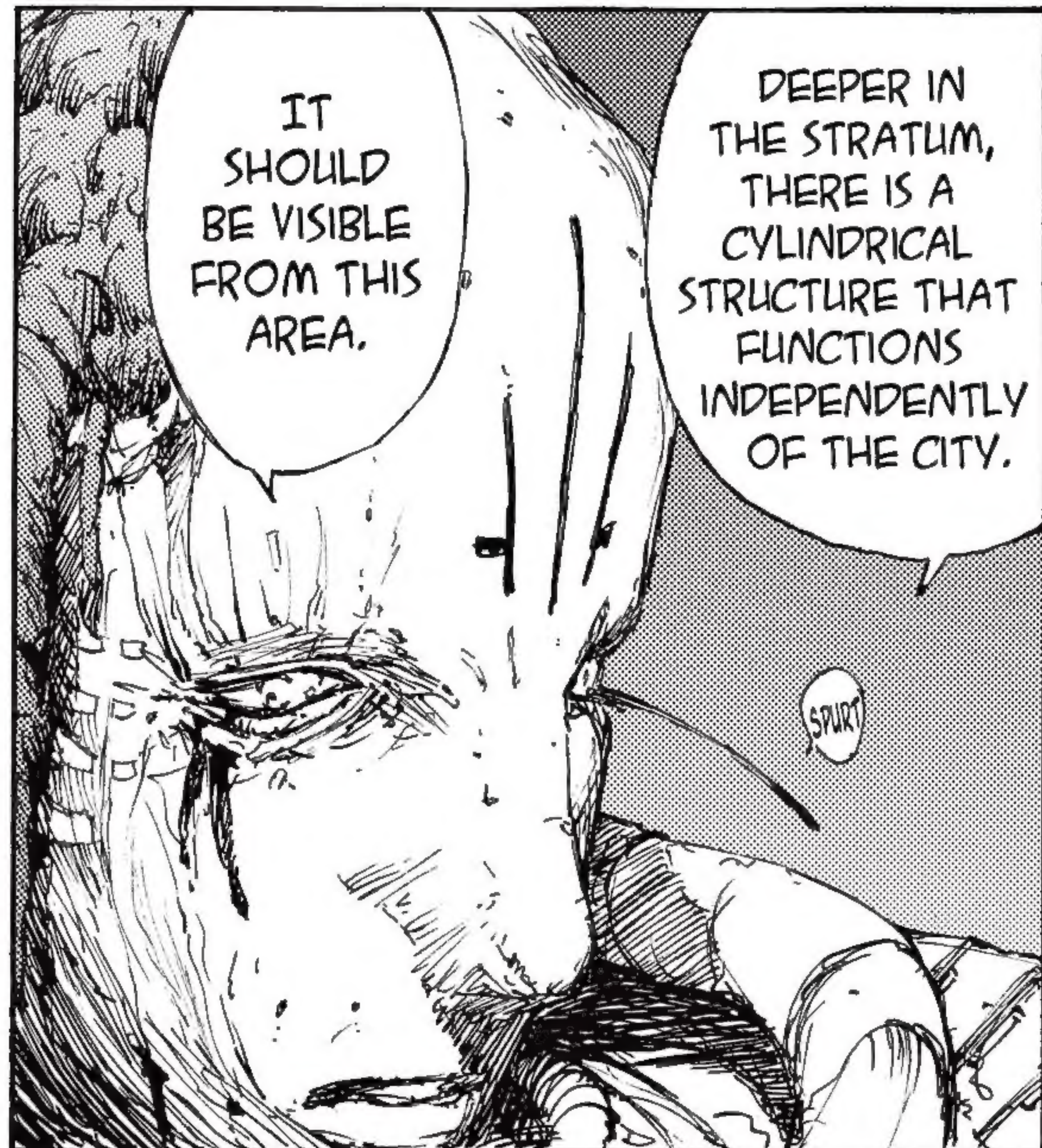
THE INFORMATION
WE HAVE IS INCOMPLETE.
BUT THERE SHOULD BE
SOME SETTLEMENTS
LEFT.



ARE THERE
ANY OTHER
AREAS IN
THIS STRATUM
WITH
HUMANS?

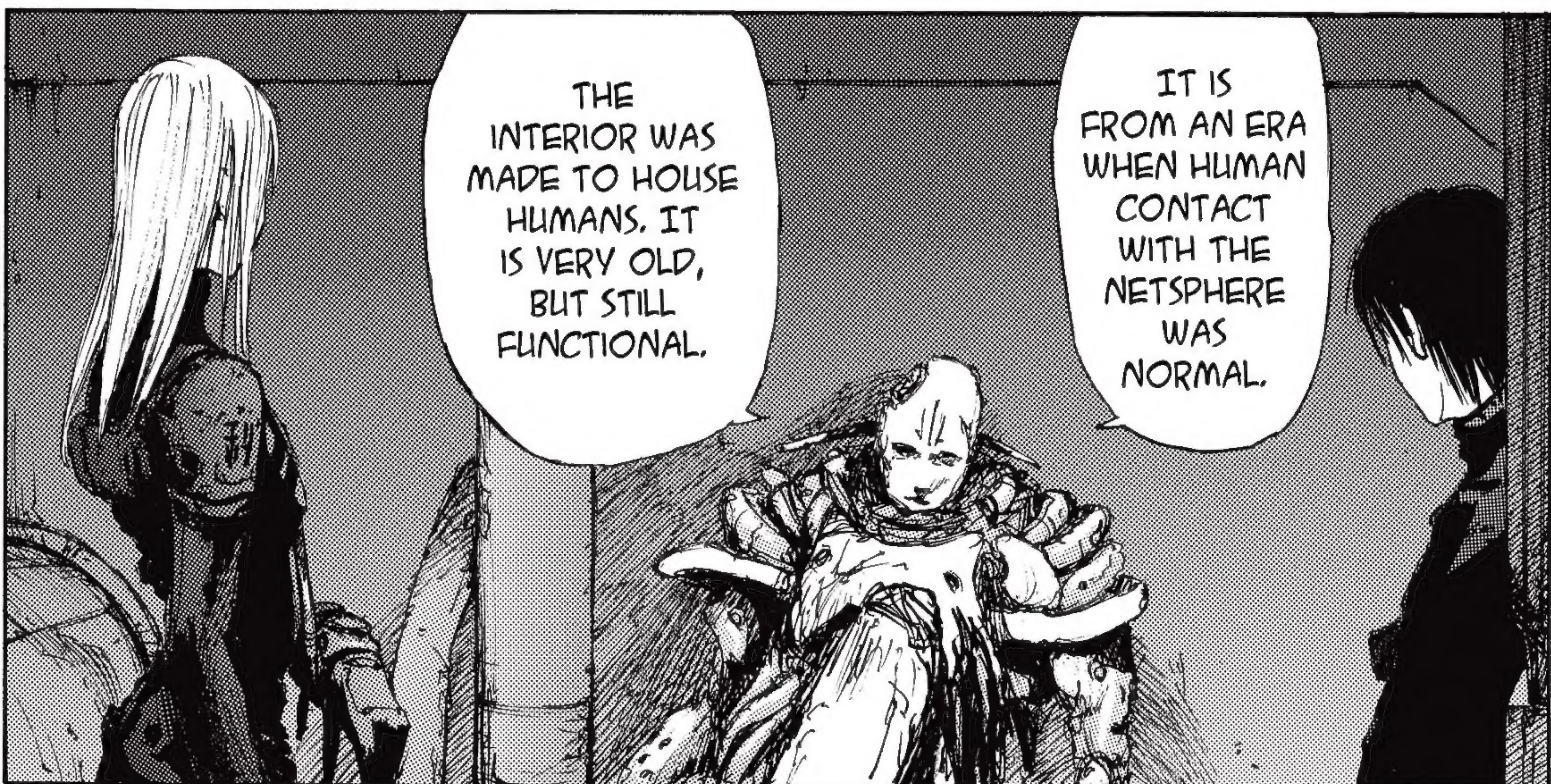


WE SAW
IT ON
OUR WAY
HERE.



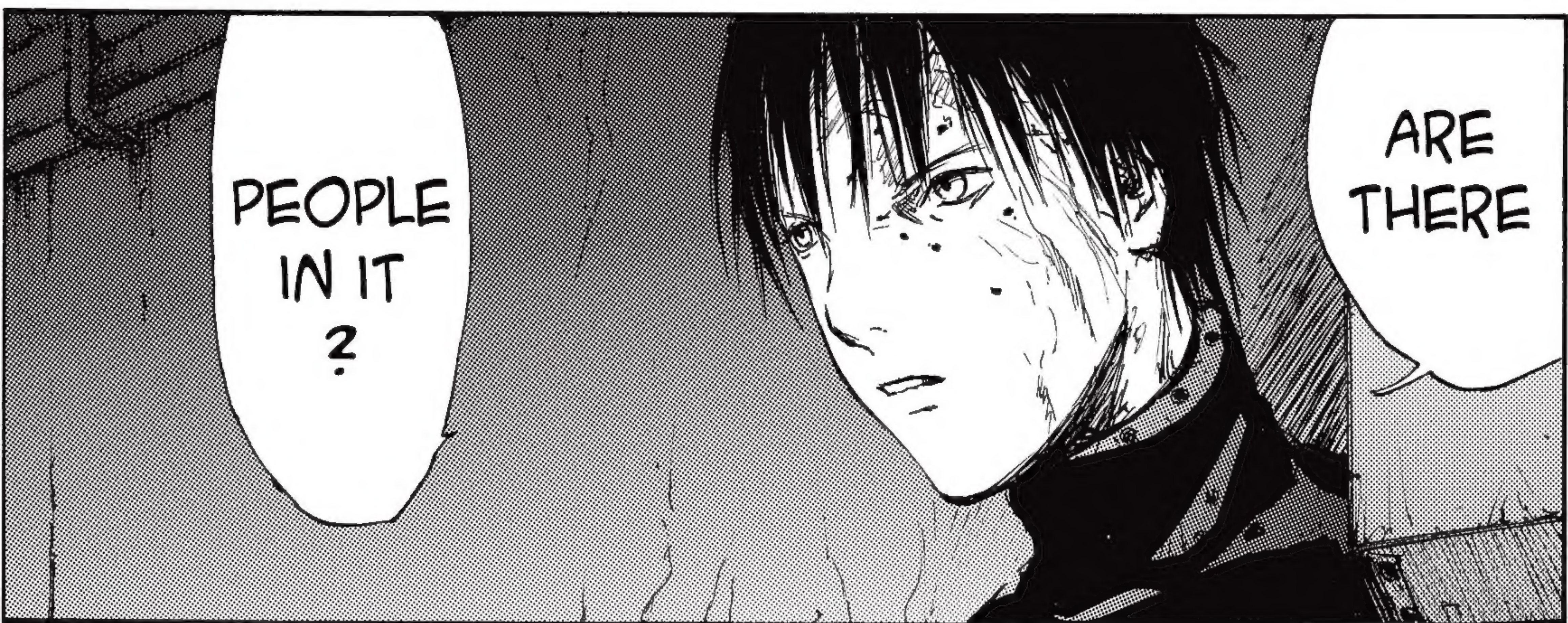
IT
SHOULD
BE VISIBLE
FROM THIS
AREA.

DEEPER IN
THE STRATUM,
THERE IS A
CYLINDRICAL
STRUCTURE THAT
FUNCTIONS
INDEPENDENTLY
OF THE CITY.



THE
INTERIOR WAS
MADE TO HOUSE
HUMANS. IT
IS VERY OLD,
BUT STILL
FUNCTIONAL.

IT IS
FROM AN ERA
WHEN HUMAN
CONTACT
WITH THE
NETSPHERE
WAS
NORMAL.



PEOPLE
IN IT
?

ARE
THERE

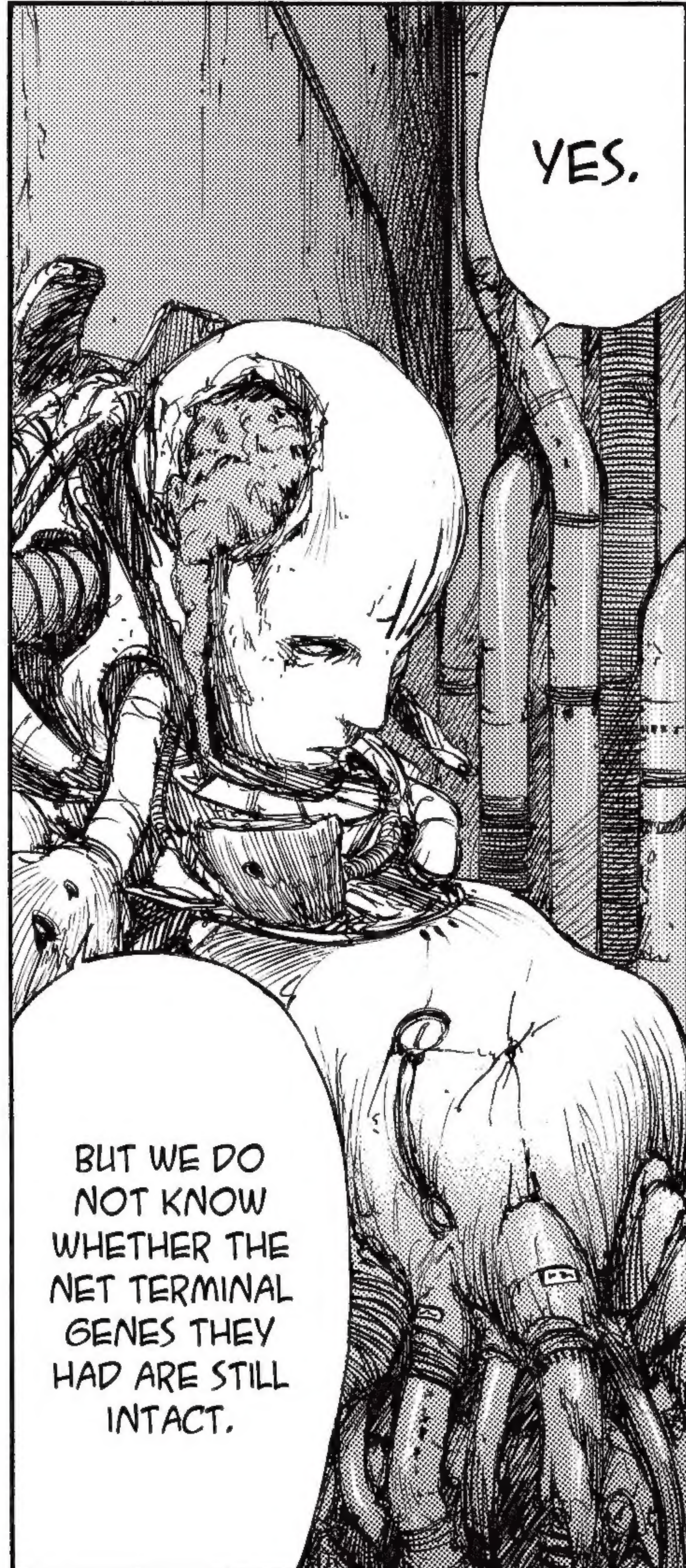


BESIDES, IF THEY DID HAVE FUNCTIONAL TERMINAL GENES, THEY WOULD ALREADY BE CONNECTED TO THE NETSPHERE THEMSELVES.

YOU DON'T KNOW... SO IS THERE A WAY TO FIND OUT?

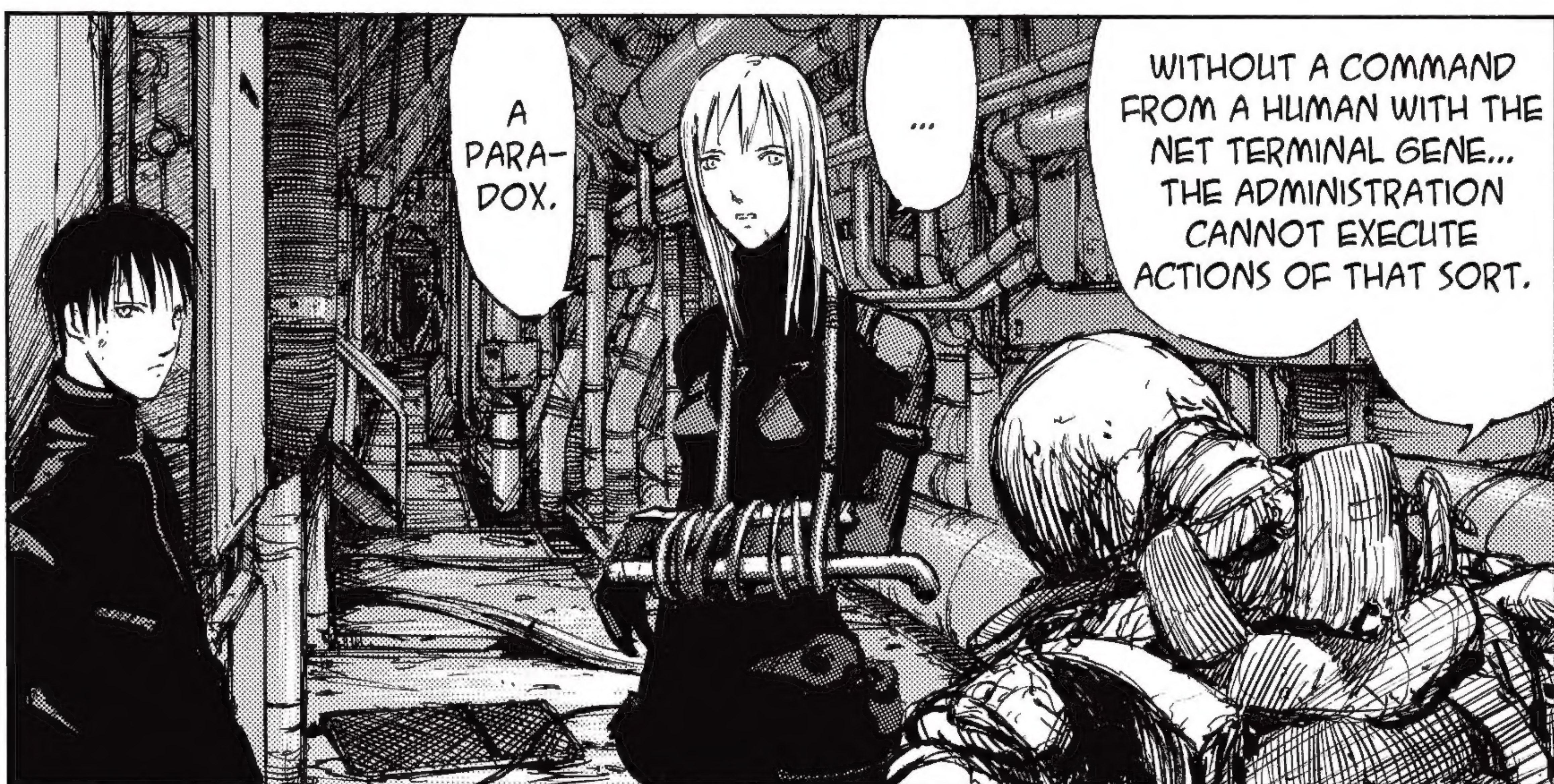


HAVE YOU EVER BEEN INSIDE THE STRUCTURE?



YES.

BUT WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THE NET TERMINAL GENES THEY HAD ARE STILL INTACT.



A PARADOX.

...

WITHOUT A COMMAND FROM A HUMAN WITH THE NET TERMINAL GENE... THE ADMINISTRATION CANNOT EXECUTE ACTIONS OF THAT SORT.

